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Editor's intro

Hello everyone, and welcome to another issue of Hot English. First of all, we hope you had a great summer holiday, and that now you're fully-prepared for the new academic year.

If you're one of our regular readers, we'd like to thank you for your continued support over the years, and welcome you back again. And if you're a new student with Hot English Language Services, we'd like to welcome you to our magazine, and we really hope you enjoy learning English with us.

For those of you who already know us, you'll see that this issue of Hot English is even bigger and better than before. We've got more articles and more listenings (the CD is now over 70-minutes long). We've also organised the articles according to different levels, with the more basic articles towards the start of the magazine, leading up to more advanced-level articles towards the end. Of course, whatever level you are, you'll find something interesting for you to read throughout the magazine.

You'll also notice lots of extra listenings on the CD. These listenings are now part of the Hot English Students' and Teachers' Packs. The new Students' Pack is full of exercises based on Hot English articles, with lots of fun activities, grammar exercises and help in organising your learning.

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Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of Hot English magazine. All the best and see you next month,

Andy

Photo of the month

The builders in this photo win the prize for *Intelligent Workers of the Year*. Do you notice anything strange about the photo? These council workers were told to put some **bollards** around a bank as a security precaution. Did anyone think to ask them how they're going to get the **van** out?

GLOSSARY

- a bollard** *n*
short, thick concrete post to stop people driving on an area
- a van** *n*
a large vehicle for transporting goods, etc



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Stormy Weather

Bad year for hurricanes.

Experts say there will be bad weather this year in the US. Southern US states such as Florida and Georgia often have **hurricanes** during the late summer. But weathermen say this year will be bad. We are **expecting** maybe 15 **storms** said one weatherman. Hurricanes are very dangerous. They can **damage** buildings and kill people. Last year was quite a year for hurricanes. But 2005 was the worst year in history. In 2005 there were 28 different storms, and one of them, "Hurricane Katrina", became infamous after causing billions of US dollars of damage. The government say that people have to take dangerous objects inside. They need to **protect themselves from** the **winds**, which can **reach speeds** of more than **130 kph**. ✦



Boring Hollywood

Reporter says Hollywood films have boring ideas.



A reporter says that Hollywood is **boring**. James King, who works for the BBC, says that Hollywood has no new ideas and that they need to be more original. "This year the new films are *Shrek 3*, *Spiderman 3*, *Pirates of the Caribbean 3* and *Harry Potter 5*," said King. "These films are just the same every year and now it's **getting boring**." Hollywood producers like to **remake** films. Very often, **sequels** make a lot of money, but King says that this is a bad thing for the industry. "It is the same **storyline** and the same actors working for the same producers. Something has to change," he says. However, some people think that remakes are a good idea. "People are **familiar with** the characters and can see them develop. This is a good thing," said film producer Chris Bean. ✦

GLOSSARY

- a hurricane** *n*
a storm with violent wind
- to expect** *vb*
if you "expect" something to happen, you think that it will happen
- a storm** *n*
violent weather with strong winds
- damage** *n*
destruction
- to protect yourself from something** *exp*
to do something so you are safe from danger
- a wind** *n*
a current of air that is moving
- to reach a speed of 130 kph** *exp*
to be at a maximum speed of 130 kph
- boring** *adj*
not exciting
- to get boring** *exp*
to stop being interesting
- a remake** *n*
a new version of a film
- a sequel** *n*
a film that continues the story of an earlier film
- a storyline** *n*
the main story
- to be familiar with something** *exp*
to know something well

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Saggy Trousers

A new law against some types of trousers.

What kind of **trousers** do you like to wear? **Tight** ones? **Baggy** ones? Ordinary ones? Some people like to wear **saggy** ones. But a new law in the US may soon stop this.



Indecent exposure

"If you expose your **underwear**, you'll get a **fine**," said Mayor Carol Broussard of the US state of Louisiana. He was referring to a new law that makes saggy trousers illegal. He argued that they were an "act of **indecent exposure**". And people who are **caught with their trousers down**, could pay a fine of **up to US\$500**. The Delcambre town council passed the law. The law makes it a crime to wear trousers that show your underwear. Offenders could go to jail for up to six months.



Mr Broussard added, "They're better off taking the **pants** off and just wearing a dress."

Fashionable

But many people are angry about the new law. Some say that the law **targets** African-Americans. Many African-American hip hop fans wear **low-slung trousers**. However, Mr Broussard denied that the law was racially motivated. "White people wear sagging pants, too," he said. A town lawyer added, "This new law adds underwear to the list of **forbidden exposures**. It's all about not showing off your underwear in public." ❌

Hip Hop clothing

Here is some more fashionable clothing.
A baseball cap
Trainers ("sneakers" US English)
Hoods
Boxer shorts
T-shirt



Trousers versus pants

In American English, they use the word "pants" to refer to trousers. However, be careful, because "pants" in British English refers to the clothing you wear under your trousers.



GLOSSARY

trousers *n*
clothing you wear to cover your legs
tight *adj*
"tight" clothing is very close to your body
baggy *adj*
"baggy" clothing is too big for you
saggy *adj*
"saggy" clothing keeps falling down
underwear *n*
clothing you wear under your trousers
a fine *n*
money you must pay because you have committed a crime
indecent exposure *n*
showing private parts of your body in public
caught with your trousers down *exp*
two meanings: with your trousers not covering your legs; caught in an embarrassing or illegal situation
up to US\$500 *exp*
all the numbers including and before US\$500
pants *n* US
an American English word for trousers
a target *n*
the object of an attack or criticism
low-slung trousers *n*
trousers that are very low on the body and appear to be falling down
forbidden *adj*
prohibited
an exposure *n*
if there is "an exposure", a part of your body is showing
a belt *n*
an accessory used to hold your trousers around your body

Saggy trouser origins

Saggy trousers were originally worn by prisoners in US prisons. In many prisons, prisoners cannot wear **belts**. This is to prevent suicide attempts, and it is also as a way of humiliating the prisoner. And, of course, it means that their trousers are very saggy.



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Headline news

Generous US

Americans are the most generous people say CNN News. Last year, Americans donated almost \$300 billion to **charities**. Many of these charities help people who live in Africa. They also helped US **citizens** after the destruction of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.



Healthy Spain

People in Spain have the healthiest **diet** in Europe, a new report says. This is because they eat more fish and fresh vegetables than people who live in the north. Fish provides omega 3. This is an important acid which helps people stay healthy. It is very good for the heart, the eyes and the circulation.



Kid Torres

Spanish football player Fernando Torres will play for Liverpool next year. The 23-year-old has agreed a four-year **deal**. He is valued at €40m. The two clubs also agreed a deal for Luis García to return to Atletico Madrid. García played there during the 2002-03 season.



Royal Change

Prince Charles may change his name when he becomes king. Many people thought he would become Charles III. However, newspapers now say that he may become George VII. This is because the name Charles has a bad history in Great Britain. Charles I was executed in 1649, and his son, Charles II (1630-1685), had to spend 18 years in **exile**. ✪



GLOSSARY

- a charity** *n*
an organisation that helps people in need: the poor, people with medical problems, etc
- a citizen** *n*
a "citizen" of a particular country is someone who belongs to that country
- a diet** *n*
the type of food from a particular country
- a deal** *n*
an agreement
- in exile** *n*
if you are living "in exile", you are forced to live in another country for political reasons

DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC



In this section Dr Fingers identifies and corrects typical errors.



CD track 3

Activity

Read the sentences, find the errors and correct the sentences. Then listen to the CD to check your answers. Good luck! Afterwards, you can read the error analysis section.

1. I asked them to give me the informations.
2. She is about to start her university career.
3. I would like to discuss about the problem with you, please.
4. She opened the top by a screwdriver.
5. He lives in small town by Manchester.
6. Could you call to me tomorrow, please?
7. Please phone call me as soon as you get this message.
8. She asked him to call her with number 0892 45978.
9. We will can watch television on our mobile phones in the future.
10. The meeting is cancelled until next Friday.
11. He is not capable to do this job.
12. You need special capacities for this job.
13. This vase needs a special care and attention.
14. Take care of not catching a cold.
15. He stayed at home to take care after the children.



Error Analysis

1. "Information" is an uncountable noun, so there is no plural form.
2. Your "career" is a professional job that requires training and that you choose to do for the majority of your life.
3. There is no preposition with the verb "to discuss".
4. You do something "with" a tool.
5. We often use "by" to mean that something is right next to you, almost touching you.
6. We call someone (not "to" someone).
7. You can either "phone" someone or "call" someone, but not "phone call" someone.
8. You call someone "on" a particular number.
9. The future of "can" is "will be able to".
10. If you "cancel" something, it will never take place; if you "postpone" something, you plan to do it at a later date.
11. The expression is "capable of" + verb,-ing.
12. "Capacity" is the quality that someone has to experience, give or receive. For example, "He has a great capacity for love." The things you learn in order to do a job are "skills".
13. "Care" is an uncountable noun.
14. The negative form is "take care not to...".
15. You can use either "take care of", or "look after".



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Story Time

Jokes, anecdotes and stories as told by native English speak-

Golf Dream

Jen and Mary are playing golf. Jen stands over the **tee** for a long time, deciding how best to hit the ball. Finally, Mary asks, "Why are you taking so long?" And Jen replies, "My husband is up there watching me from the **clubhouse**. I want to do the perfect **shot**." "Oh," Mary says, "It's going to be really **hard** to hit him from here."



Angry Bear

The three **bears** return home one Sunday morning after a walk in the **woods**. When they arrive home, they see that

the door of their little house is open. Cautiously, they go inside. After a while, big daddy bear says, "Someone has been eating my **porridge**!" And mummy bear says, "And look, someone has been eating my porridge." And little baby bear runs in and shouts, "Forget the porridge. Someone has stolen the DVD player!"



Fly Sale

A man goes into a **pet shop** and walks up to the **counter**.

"Good morning, sir. Can I help you?" asks the **shop assistant**. "I'd like a **fly**, please," says the man.

"You'd like a what?" asks the assistant, looking confused.

"I'd like a fly, please," he repeats.

"I'm sorry, sir, but we don't sell flies here."

"Well, there's one in the window."



Patient Patience

A man is **recovering** from surgery when a nurse asks him how he is

feeling.

The man replies, "I'm all right, but I didn't like the **four-letter word** the doctor used in surgery."

And the nurse asks, "What did he say?"

"**Oops!**"

Tommy Cooper Jokes

(Tommy Cooper was a famous British comedian from the 1970s.)

You know, somebody actually **complimented** me on my driving today. They left a little note on the **windscreen**, it said "Parking **Fine**". So that was nice.



So, I got home, and the phone was ringing. I **picked it up**, and said, "Who's speaking please?" And a voice said, "You are."



So I went to the dentist. He said, "Say aaah." I said, "Why?" He said, "My dog died." ❖



GLOSSARY

- a tee** *n*
a small piece of wood or plastic used to hold the ball during a game of golf
- a clubhouse** *n*
the place where golfers have a drink, get changed, etc
- a shot** *n*
if you take a "shot", you hit the ball with the golf club
- hard** *adj*
difficult
- a bear** *n*
a large animal that lives in the woods and likes to eat honey
- the woods** *n*
an area with many trees
- porridge** *n*
food that is made from oats (a type of cereal) that are cooked in water or milk
- a pet shop** *n*
a shop that sells animals
- the counter** *n*
the long table in a shop where you are served
- a shop assistant** *n*
a person who works in a shop serving customers
- a fly** *n*
an insect with wings
- to recover** *vb*
to rest after an operation
- a four-letter word** *n*
two meanings: a word with four letters in it; a swear word (a word that is insulting)
- oops** *exp*
an exclamation of surprise
- to compliment** *vb*
to say good and positive things about someone
- a windscreen** *n*
the piece of glass at the front of a car that a driver looks out of
- a fine** *n*
money you must pay because you have committed a crime
- to pick up** *phr vb*
to answer the phone

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Unpleasant Customs

The problem of getting into Britain.

Have you applied for a visa? What did they ask you? What did you say? A new report attacks the British visa application process of getting into Britain.



No English, no entry
Have you ever been to Britain? If you have, why did you go? A new report shows that people who don't answer this question "correctly" are often **denied** a visa. Some visa applications were **rejected** because a visitor has planned a holiday for "no particular purpose other than **sightseeing**". Others were denied because it was "the first time I have **travelled abroad**". And others were rejected because they couldn't speak English.

Ridiculous reasons
Many people have criticised this attitude. "Some of the reasons for rejecting visas are completely ridiculous," said Linda Costos, who works for an organisation that **monitors** UK visas. "Rejecting a visa because it is the first time that someone travels abroad is simply silly. There is a first time for everyone who has gone abroad on a holiday. Not having done it before is an acceptable reason for travel," she said. "Denying a visa because the trip is just for sightseeing is

just unbelievable. That's what the UK is famous for: sights worth seeing," she added.

More examples
One case involved a young woman from Russia. The customs officer rejected her because "you have little or no idea what you plan to see or do in Britain". This young woman had answered a question on the form asking why she was going to the UK. She had written "**annual leave vacation**". A perfectly sensible response, surely? A tourist from Japan wrote, "I just want a holiday, and I want to visit the **seaside**." And the officer who rejected the applicant wrote, "You have not named any places you will see." Erm, what about the seaside? In one case, a man from Brazil was refused a visa because the officer didn't believe his story. The officer thought it was not credible that the Brazilian tourist was going to stay in a hotel that was more than 20 miles from his

friends. The man had told the officer that he didn't want to stay with his friends for the entire 28-day visit.



The solution
Many organisations are fighting to **improve** the British visa service. They are also hoping that some of the rejected applicants will be sent an **apology**. "We also want to see an improvement in the language used to explain refusals to applicants. But there is still a **long way to go**." Just recently, a UK university found itself in a battle with immigration officials. Almost 70 "**bona fide**" Chinese students would have **missed** their course if senior staff hadn't intervened. And in another case, 57 qualified teachers, who were due to start a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) course at the university, were refused visas to enter the UK. ❖

GLOSSARY
to deny *vb*
to say that something isn't true
to reject *vb*
if an application is "rejected", it is not accepted
sightseeing *n*
visiting the tourist attractions in a city/country
to travel abroad *exp*
to go to another country
to monitor *vb*
to watch, observe and evaluate
annual leave *n*
a holiday you get once a year as part of your job
a vacation *n US*
a holiday
the seaside *n*
the area next to the sea where people go for their holidays
to improve *vb*
to make better; to increase the quality of
an apology *n*
if you make an "apology", you say sorry
a long way to go *n*
if there is a "long way to go", there are still many things that need doing
bona fide *n*
genuine; real
to miss *vb*
if you "miss" a course, you are unable to go on it

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ENVIOS A DOMICILIO

the restaurant



A table



A menu



A salt pot



A bottle of ketchup



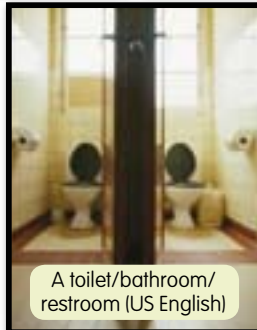
A starter



A main course



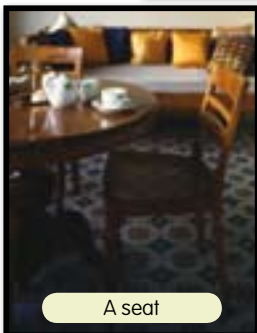
A dessert



A toilet/bathroom/
restroom (US English)



A bill



A seat



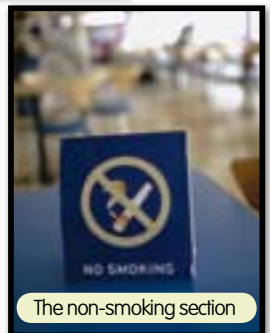
A kitchen



A waiter



A manager



The non-smoking section



A drink



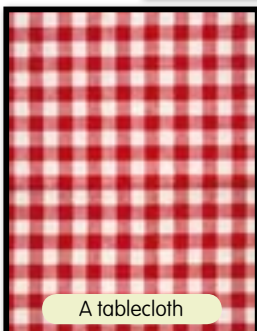
A glass



A fork and knife



A spoon



A tablecloth



A napkin



A toothpick



A cup of coffee



A tip



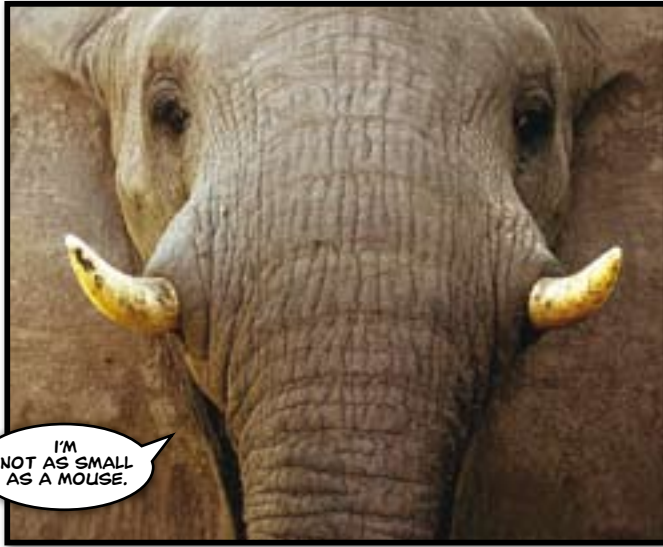
The section that makes grammar easy, interesting and fun.

AS... AS COMPARATIVES



CD track 6 Englishman & Irishwoman

In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at "as... as" to make comparatives.



I'M NOT AS SMALL AS A MOUSE.

We can use "as... as" to say that two things are the same in some way.

- a) She is as tall as Gordon.
- b) This elephant is as big as the other one.

Adjectives

We can use "as... as" with an adjective. For example:

- a) Mary is as pretty as Jenny.
- b) Bob is as clever as Brian.
- c) It's as cold as ice.



- d) He's as interesting as his mother.
- e) She's as bored as her father.



- f) It's as good as the other film.

Adverbs

We can also use this construction with an adverb. For example:

- a) She spoke as fast as I did.
- b) Mike drove as badly as Sally.



- c) He ran as slowly as his brother.
- d) They walked as quickly as each other.



- e) They treated us as fairly as we treated them.

Pronouns

You can use a pronoun after the second "as". Some say it should be a personal

pronoun (I, you, he, she, we, they), but it is much more common to use an object pronoun (me, you, him, her, us, them). For example:

- a) She is as intelligent as me. (I)



- b) They are as careful as us. (we)
- c) He is as tall as her. (she)

Clauses

We can add a clause after the second "as". For example:

- a) This exercise is as easy as the one I did last year.
- b) This exam is as difficult as the first one I did.

Negative comparisons

We can also make negative comparisons using "not as... as" ("not so... as" is also possible) with both adjectives and adverbs. For example:

- a) Mary isn't as pretty as Jenny.
- b) Bob isn't as clever as Brian.
- c) He isn't as interesting as his mother.
- d) She didn't speak as fast as I did.
- e) Mike didn't drive as fast as Sally.

Nouns

We can use "as many... as" with countable nouns; and "as much... as" with uncountable nouns. For example:

- a) They don't have as many children as us.
- b) He doesn't have as many houses as me.
- c) She hasn't got as much money as Brian.
- d) We don't have as much time as we would like. ↻

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Headline news

Spiced Up

The Spice Girls are back. The five girls, Emma Bunton, Mel Brown, Mel Chisholm, Victoria Adams and Geri Halliwell, haven't sung together since May 1998. But now they're getting together for a **reunion tour**, which includes concerts in London and Madrid. "For us, it's about celebrating the past, enjoying each other and it's about our fans. It was kind of now or never," Halliwell said.



Art Theft

After more than ten years, Sir Elton John has finally won. The famous singer was fighting a legal battle against a Parisian art dealer. Sir Elton accused the art dealer of selling **fake** sculptures. Sir Elton had paid \$360,000 for four statues of Greek gods, presumably from the 18th century. However, an art expert said they weren't authentic. Sir Elton was **awarded** more than £250,000.



Mummy Find

It is the biggest archaeological **find** in Egypt since the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb in 1922. Egyptologists say they have identified a 3,000-year-old **mummy**. They say the mummy is Hatshepsut, Egypt's most famous female **ruler**. Hatshepsut was more powerful than either of her more famous female successors, Nefertiti and Cleopatra. The mummy was originally found by Howard Carter in 1903, but was never identified. A DNA test has helped Egyptologists confirm her identity.



Diaz Apology

"I sincerely apologise to anyone I may have offended," American actress Cameron Diaz said, after she was criticised for carrying a bag with a political slogan on it.

Diaz had visited the historical Machu Picchu site in Peru with a green bag which had a red star and the words "serve the people" printed in Chinese. Many said that the slogan **brought back memories** of a Peruvian war against Maoist rebels in the 1980s and '90s. More than 69,000 people died in that war. ✪



GLOSSARY

- a reunion** *n*
a special meeting between people who have been separated for many years
- a tour** *n*
an organised trip that musicians go on, doing concerts in different cities
- fake** *adj*
not real; a copy
- to award** *vb*
to give as a prize
- a find** *n*
a discovery
- a mummy** *n*
a dead body from many, many years ago that has been preserved in oil and cloth
- a ruler** *n*
a person who governs and rules in a country
- to bring back memories** *exp*
to remind you of something; to make you remember something



Presidential Advertising

Clintons make an advert for the You Tube generation



GOT ANY NEW INTERNS?

Bill Clinton has appeared **alongside** his wife Hilary in a new **advert**. The advert is designed to help Hilary in her attempt to become the first female president of the United States of America. The **couple** meet in a US café and have a conversation which reveals that Hilary Clinton's official campaign song will be "You and I" by Celine Dion. The advert is designed to **connect** the Clintons and their campaign with the young generation who use the internet more

and have been called "The You Tube Generation." "This is a new and **entertaining** way of connecting with people effectively" said a **spokesperson** for the Clinton family. However, some people say it is dangerous for Hilary to **associate herself** too closely with her husband. Although Bill Clinton is still very popular in the US, "it is a good idea for herself to show that she is different and she has different ideas," said one political reporter. ☺



Celebrity Marriage

Rod Stewart weds again



THIRD TIME LUCKY.

British musician Rod Stewart has got married for the third time. He married British model Penny Lancaster at a ceremony on his yacht in the Mediterranean Sea near the Italian town of Portofino. Rod Stewart is famous for his relationships and marriages to beautiful women. He was previously married to Rachael Hunter a supermodel from New Zealand. They eventually **divorced** last year. Some people say this cost Stewart £66m. Rod Stewart first became famous with the band *The Faces* in the 1970s. Later, he had a successful **solo career**. Some of his most famous songs include "Maggie May" and "Da Ya Think I'm Sexy?" Before he became famous, he travelled around many different European countries as a singer. In the early 1960s, he was **banned** from Spain for **vagrancy**. The wedding ceremony between Lancaster and Stewart was private and they have not **made any official comment**. ☺



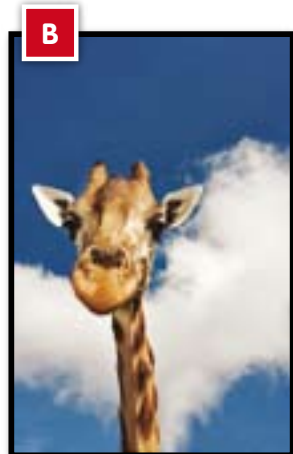
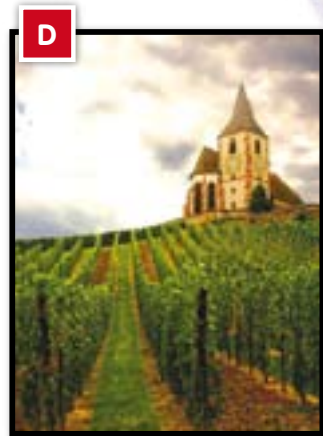
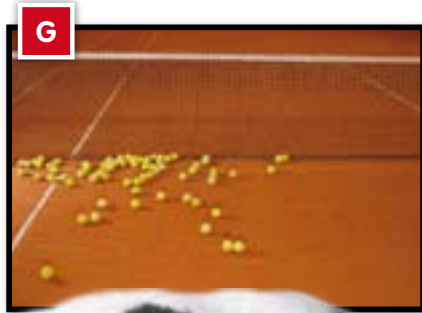
GLOSSARY
alongside *adv*
with
an advert *n*
a piece of publicity on the television, radio, etc
a couple *n*
two people in a relationship
to connect *vb*
to create a link or relationship with
entertaining *adj*
funny and enjoyable to watch
a spokesperson *n*
a person who speaks for an organisation
to associate yourself with someone *exp*
to support someone publicly
to divorce *vb*
to separate legally from your husband/wife
a solo career *n*
if a singer has a "solo career", he/she leaves the group and starts singing by him/herself
to ban *vb*
to prohibit
vagrancy *n*
a style of life that consists of moving from place to place and having no permanent place to live
to make an official comment *n*
to say something formally to the press

TRIVIA MATCHING

Exercise

See if you can do this matching exercise. Look at the list of things (1 to 12), and the photos (A-L). Write a letter next to the name of each thing in the list below. **Answers** on page 42

1. Brazil nut
2. A toilet/bathroom ("restroom" in US English)
3. A tennis court
4. A breed of dog
5. A bride
6. A pelican
7. A sign
8. Celery
9. A grape
10. Raisins
11. A giraffe
12. A vineyard





This is another part in our mini-series on strange facts. Whoever thought the world was so unusual?

The biggest exporter of Brazil nuts is not Brazil but Bolivia.



Only 55% of men wash their hands after going to the toilet. Now, getting those statistics must have been a **fun job**... not.



If you fill a **matchbox** with gold, it could be **flattened** to cover an entire **tennis court**.

Jamaica is the largest English-speaking island in the Caribbean.



Britain's oldest **breed** of dog is the Bearded Collie.



Dalmatian dogs are born white and without the spots. Guaranteed protection from Cruella de Ville.

The Chinese eat about 50% of the world's **pork**.

Chinese **brides** get married in red.



Alcatraz prison got its name from a native word meaning pelican.

The Hollywood sign cost \$21,000 to build.



Bruce Willis was born in Germany.

You use more calories eating **celery** than there are in the celery itself.

Most vegetables and virtually all fruit juices contain a small amount of alcohol.



The longest-running animated series on TV is *The Simpsons*.



It takes about 5,000 litres of water to produce 1 kilo of rice; and it takes about 2.5 kilos of **grapes** to make half a kilo of **raisins**.

The largest McDonald's is in Beijing, China. It has twenty nine **cash registers** and covers an area of about 9,000 square metres.



A giraffe can clean its ears with its 8-cm tongue. Incidentally, mummy giraffes give birth standing up. The baby falls from a height of about two metres and without being hurt, usually.

The **soil** of one famous **vineyard** in France is considered so precious that vineyard workers are required to clean it from their shoes before they leave for home each night. ✪



GLOSSARY

- a fun job** *exp* an interesting and entertaining job
- a matchbox** *n* a small box that contains matches (little wooden sticks used for creating fire)
- to flatten** *vb* to make flat (level and smooth)
- a tennis court** *n* an area of ground where you play tennis
- a breed** *n* a "breed" of dog is a particular type of dog
- pork** *n* meat from pigs
- a bride** *n* a woman who is going to get married in a wedding
- celery** *n* a type of vegetable. It has long, green stalks (the long thin part that joins it to the plant or tree)
- a grape** *n* a type of fruit used to make wine
- a raisin** *n* a dried grape
- a cash register** *n* a type of computer that records what you buy in a shop and prints out a receipt
- soil** *n* the earth
- a vineyard** *n* an area where grapes are grown for making wine

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DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



Dear Dr Fingers,

Please could you help me with stative and non-stative verbs. What are they? Where does one find them? And how does one deal with them?

Yours, Mrs Windfarm.

Dear Mrs Windfarm,

Of course, I would be delighted to help you. OK, here goes.

There are some verbs in English that cannot be used in the continuous form. Many of these verbs are related to cognitive activities (mental processes) - what you hate, like, prefer, know, understand, believe, and how you analyse and create logic from the world. For example, you cannot say the following:

- a) INCORRECT: I am knowing the answer. (Correct: I know the answer.)
- b) INCORRECT: They are liking the food. (Correct: They like the food.)



Listen to Dr Fingers' views on everything from language learning to culture. Watch some funny videos. Write in with your comments. Read other people's opinions. Join in the chat. Just visit www.hotenglishmagazine.com/blog Get blogging! Hot blogging!

The following verbs are not normally used in the continuous form. They are often referred to as "stative verbs" as they describe a fixed state. For example:

- Like: I really like this film.
- Love: She loves that story you told her.
- Hate: I hate this drink.
- Want: They really want to go.
- Need: We need a change of scenery.
- Prefer: I prefer this book to the other one.
- Know: We know what you are thinking.
- Realise: I didn't realise what you meant.
- Suppose: I suppose it's the right one.
- Mean: You don't really mean that, do you?
- Understand: They understand what we said.
- Believe: I don't believe this.
- Remember: Do you remember what I told you?
- Belong: This belongs to Sam.
- Contain: It contains a list of the most popular songs.
- Consist: What does it consist of?
- Depend: It all depends on your personal beliefs.
- Seem: She seems to be sad.
- Be: It is the best one yet.

Stative and non-stative verbs

There are a few verbs that can be both stative and non-stative. For example, when "think" refers to your beliefs, thoughts and ideas, it is stative. For example:

- a) I think it is a good idea.
- b) She thinks you are nice.

However, when "think" refers to the action and process of thinking, it can be used in a continuous sense. For example:

- a) I was thinking about you.
- b) We are thinking about doing it.

When "to have" means "possess", it is used as a stative verb. For example:

- a) She has a house in the country.
- b) We have a cat.

However, when "have" is part of a verbal structure, it can be used in the continuous form. For example:

- a) We're having a great time.
- b) He's having a bath.

When the verb "to be" refers to someone's character, it is used as a stative verb. For example:

- a) He is the most intelligent person I know.
- b) She is really beautiful.

However, when "to be" refers to a temporary state, or an action in progress, it can be used in the continuous form. For example:

- a) He is being silly.
- b) She is being selfish.

Well, Mrs Windfarm, I hope that has helped you.

Yours, Dr Fingers.

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Corny Criminals



CD track 11 Irishwoman & Englishman

Here's another part in our series on good, bad and funny criminals.

Drunk Driver

A drunk driver literally took himself to jail. Bergen Jerken was **three times over the limit** when he crashed his car through the walls of a police station in Switzerland. Police say 36-year-old Jerken lost control and **skidded off**



the road, crashing straight through the side of the police station. A police spokesman added, "He was unhurt, which is more than can be said for the car and the police station. He can **say goodbye to** his licence for a long, long time."

Light Hands

"I couldn't see in the dark, so I turned on the lights," said Jim Bumble, who was arrested after **breaking into** a sports club. "I had no **torch** so I turned on the first light switch that I could find. Unfortunately, this was the switch to the **floodlights** of the club's football pitch." Local residents who saw the lights from their nearby homes, called the police. "I



tried to turn the lights off, but I couldn't," Bumble added. Bumble also managed to **switch on** the football pitch **sprinkler system**.

Robin Hood Bank Manager

A German bank manager has been jailed after stealing money from the rich to give to the poor. Michael Hooden took money from rich clients' **bank accounts** and **transferred** the money electronically to clients who had problems with **debts**. In total, the 52-year-old banker moved more than 2 million

euros in the bank where he worked in the small town of Richentaun. He decided that poor people needed it more than the rich. He helped all sorts of people, including **single mothers**, pensioners, and even a young man who lost his job because of ill



health. Suddenly, these poor people found thousands of euros in their accounts. And no one ever said anything about it. Hooden eventually **turned himself in** after he realised he could not **cover up** what he had done any longer. He has been sentenced to 34 months in prison. He said, "I felt for the unemployed and the poor and wanted to help them." *

GLOSSARY

- three times over the limit** *exp*
with three times more alcohol than is permitted when driving
- to skid** *vb*
if a car "skids", it goes out of control and moves sideways, often on a wet road
- to say goodbye to something** *exp*
if you have to "say goodbye to something", that thing is taken from you
- to break into a building** *exp*
to enter a building illegally and with the intention of robbing
- a torch** *n*
a small electric light which is powered by batteries
- the floodlights** *n*
large, powerful lights for illuminating a football pitch / stadium, etc
- to switch on** *phr vb*
to turn on; to connect to the electricity so it works
- a sprinkler system** *n*
a device to water plants or an area of grass or to extinguish a fire
- a bank account** *n*
a place in the bank where you can leave money or take it out
- to transfer** *vb*
to move money from one account to another
- a debt** *n*
money that you owe someone
- a single mother** *n*
a mother with no husband or partner
- to turn yourself in** *exp*
to go to the police voluntarily and to admit to a crime
- to cover up** *phr vb*
to hide information so that people do not discover the truth

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A look at the two political parties in the US.

ELEPHANTS & DONKEYS

As you probably already know, US politics is dominated by two political parties: the Democrats and the Republicans. Every four years, they join in the electoral fight to decide who will be the president of the United States. Let's look at the two parties.

The Start

The origins of the US political system go back to the 4th July 1776. Back then, a group of American politicians known as the "founding fathers" issued the "Declaration of Independence". Thirteen years later, after the War of Independence (against Britain), George Washington became the first President, and since then, the US has had 55 presidential elections and 43 different presidents.



The Democrats

The oldest political party is The Democrats. Interestingly when this party was founded in 1792 they were called the Democratic-Republican Party.

Many of the most famous names in US history are connected with this party. Thomas Jefferson was one. He was the author of much of the "Declaration of Independence", and later became the 3rd president. Another name which is associated strongly with the Democrat Party is John F Kennedy.

He was a young and **charismatic** leader when he became the President in 1961, and the US nation was shocked when he was **assassinated** in 1963.

The 9th US president, Andrew Jackson, also played an important part in Democrat history.

When Jackson was **campaigning** in the presidential elections of the 1820s, his opponents called him a "donkey" as a form of disrespect.

Later, the Democrats used the donkey as their unofficial logo. Traditionally, the Democrats are the party of the **political left** as they have liberal policies, and have often supported workers, farmers, ethnic minorities and the poor.

The Republicans

The Republicans have won the last two American presidential elections, and the current president, George W Bush, is a member of the Republican Party. The Republican Party is not as old as The Democrat Party but it is considered to be more traditional. The



Republican Party was **founded** in 1854 by anti-**slavery** protesters, and soon had its first president, Abraham Lincoln. The party is often supported by white middle-class Americans, and

politically it is **right of centre**. Ronald Reagan, a Republican, is considered one of the most popular US presidents ever. He started life as a Hollywood actor, and later moved into politics. One of his important policies was giving more power to companies during the 1980s. Since then, the Republican Party has had a strong connection with big companies such as Exxon Mobil, which is the richest company in the world.



The Forthcoming Election

American elections are always interesting. The candidates often say silly things by mistake (as in the case of George W Bush), and often film and music superstars **get involved** in the election campaign. In the last election,

in 2004, Britney Spears supported Bush saying, "I think we should support our president in everything he does," whilst Ben Affleck and singer Stevie Wonder supported John Kerry.

Experts say that \$1 billion will be spent in total by the parties and the candidates. So, get ready for all the self-promotion and the **backstabbing** – it's almost election time. ⭐



When Jackson was campaigning in the presidential elections of the 1820s, his opponents called him a "donkey" as a form of disrespect.

GLOSSARY

charismatic *adj*
with an ability to attract and influence people

to assassinate *vb*
to kill an important political leader

to campaign *vb*
to do things in order to create more support for a political party

the political left *n*
people with liberal, socialist ideas

to found *vb*
to start a group or organisation

slavery *n*
the system by which people are owned by other people as slaves

right of centre *adj*
with conservative, traditional ideas

to get involved *exp*
to participate

backstabbing *n*
doing things against others; doing things to people who trusted you

A look at some of America's presidential candidates.

THE SEVEN

It's probably the most important election in US history. And the rest of the world is watching to see who the next leader of America will be. Let's have a look at some of the candidates.

The race is on

The presidential elections don't take place until late next year. But the action starts now. Candidates from both political parties fight in "**primaries**" across the country to see who will win each party's nomination to fight for the presidency.

Many people have said that this is one of the most important presidential elections in US history. There are big differences between all of the candidates on issues such as medical care, the war in Iraq and the power of big business. The US media often refers to the candidates who fight against each other in the primaries as the "**seven dwarfs**". So, we have decided to have a look at seven of the people who just might become the 44th President of the United States. Which one would you vote for?



The Favourite – Hillary Clinton (Democrat)

All the **polls** have said that the wife of ex-President Bill Clinton is the favourite to win the nomination for The Democrat Party. She obviously already **knows her way**

around the White House, and she has political experience after six years of serving as the junior senator for New York. Hillary Clinton was never a quiet "**First Lady**".

She supported her husband after his "improper physical relationship" with a White House **intern** called Monica Lewinsky. She also organised many conferences about the rights of women, and

she is generally considered to be a liberal. The Republicans have said it would be a "disaster" for the country if Hillary Clinton won the election because she does not "understand economics". There is a rumour that the Republicans are so worried about the prospect of Hillary winning that they have created an office in the White House in which people are trying to destroy her campaign. Recently *Forbes* magazine printed an article calling her "one of the most powerful people in the world".



Super Mayor – Rudy Giuliani (Republican)

Rudy Giuliani became famous around the world in September 2001 after terrorists attacked the east coast of the United States.

Giuliani was then the **mayor** for New York City. He became a popular figure, often giving interviews on television and the radio. In 2001, he was named

by *Time Magazine* as their "Person of the Year" and people started to refer to him as "America's Mayor". Giuliani is considered the favourite to win the nomination as Republican presidential candidate.



He is a well-known, **tough** politician, helping to make New York City a safer place, and sending the mafia bosses of the "five families" of New York to jail. His opponents say that he is too **right wing**, and that the country needs a change. However, Giuliani is a very popular politician and he may just become the first ever president of Italian descent.

The Rising Star – Barack Obama (Democrat)

A year ago, no one had heard of this junior senator from Illinois, but now he is the **rising star** of US politics. In the last few months, he has managed to **raise more money** for his election campaign than the favourite for the Democrat nomination, Hillary Clinton. He is only the fifth African American to become a senator in US history; and if he won, he would become the first ever African American president. One of his popular policies is to stop the war in Iraq. At the Democrat conference in 2004, he said that America has to "**win back the respect** of the world". Whilst he is very popular amongst many people, some experts say that the US isn't ready for an African American president yet. However, so far, his campaign has been very successful.



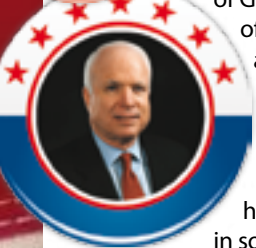
In 2001, he was named by *Time Magazine* as their "Person of the Year" and people started to refer to him as "America's Mayor"

DWARVES



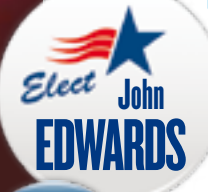
The Military Hero – John McCain (Republican)

John McCain was a candidate for the Republican nomination in 2000, but he was **beaten** by George W Bush. He has been the senator for Arizona for the last twenty years, and is a popular figure in US society. He is a traditional conservative, and some people say that his policies are very close to those of George W Bush. He is in favour of the **death penalty** and is against government-funded **healthcare**. He is a frequent guest on many US talk shows, which has led to his popularity. However, he has also been involved in some controversy. He once made a joke about the daughter of Bill and Hilary Clinton, saying that she was “ugly”. He also sung a song at a Republican convention with the words, “Bomb, bomb, bomb Iran”. Before he started his career in politics, McCain fought with the US Army in Vietnam. He was seen by many to be a military hero. During the war, he was **imprisoned** and tortured.



The Smooth Operator – John Edwards (Democrat)

John Edwards was involved in the last presidential election in 2004. He campaigned to be the vice president alongside official candidate John Kerry. He is currently the senator for the state of North Carolina. During the 2004 campaign, he became a popular public speaker, using his experience as a lawyer. His opponents have criticised him for being too “populist” and for “not having any **backbone**”. His main **policies** include reducing the **threat of global warming** and providing a healthcare system for all. Before becoming a politician, Edwards had a very successful career as a lawyer and he wrote a book about his experiences called *Four Trials*.



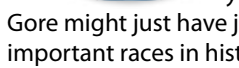
The Businessman – Mitt Romney (Republican)

Romney is the governor of the state of Massachusetts, and declared that he was **running for** the Republican nomination on 13th February 2007. He has spent much of his career working for big companies, and he was the **CEO** of Bain & Co, one of the world’s biggest **management consultant companies**. One of Romney’s greatest achievements was to make the Winter Olympics at Salt Lake City a success. Before he was involved, they were suffering from big financial problems, but Romney was **credited with** changing this. He is politically conservative and supports the death penalty, but he is supportive of gay marriage – a progressive policy for a conservative politician.



The Wildcard – Al Gore (Democrat)

Many people say that Al Gore was **robbed of** the presidency in 2000 when he was defeated by the Texan governor George W Bush. His recent documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth* has brought him a new level of popularity, and Gore himself has not **ruled out** another attempt at becoming the president of the United States. Who knows? By the time you are reading this, Al Gore might just have joined one of the most important races in history.🌍



GLOSSARY

- the primaries** *n*
internal elections to decide who will represent the Democrat or Republican party in the presidential elections
- a dwarf** *n*
the seven “dwarves” are the seven little men who looked after Snow White
- a poll** *n*
a series of questions you ask the public in order to obtain opinions
- to know your way around a place** *exp*
to be familiar with a building or organisation
- the First Lady** *n*
the wife of the president
- an intern** *n*
a person who works in an office for free (or very little money) in order to gain work experience
- a mayor** *n*
an elected leader of a town or city
- tough** *adj*
emotionally and physically strong
- right wing** *adj*
with conservative and traditional political ideas
- a rising star** *n*
a previously unknown person who is becoming more and more popular
- to raise money** *exp*
to generate money
- to win back respect** *exp*
to make people respect/like you again
- to beat** *vb*
to win against
- the death penalty** *n*
a punishment of death for committing certain crimes
- healthcare** *n*
medical assistance provided by the government
- to imprison** *vb*
to send to prison
- backbone** *n*
the courage to do difficult or unpopular things
- a policy** *n*
a political idea
- a threat** *n*
a danger
- global warming** *n*
the theory that the world’s temperature is increasing because of pollution, etc
- to run for** *phr vb*
if you “run for” an elected position, you present yourself as a candidate in the election
- CEO** *abbr*
chief executive officer – a very high management position in a company
- a management consultant company** *n*
a company which advises other companies on strategy, etc
- to be credited with something** *exp*
if you are “credited with something” good/positive, people say you are responsible for that thing
- to be robbed of something** *exp*
if you are “robbed of something”, someone wins against you but unfairly
- to rule out something** *exp*
to say that something is not possible

A look at what makes a good leader.

LUCKY

Welcome to the first part of our mini series on leaders. This month, we're looking at a few of the most famous leaders in history, and some who work in modern day business. What is it that makes a good leader? Have a look for yourself.

Winston Churchill

One of Winston Churchill's strongest characteristics was **durability**. He was a major figure in British politics in total for sixty years. During this time, he served in many important positions in the government – the most important of which was his period as prime minister between 10th May 1940 and 27th July 1945. He eventually **retired** as a member of parliament in 1964 at the age of 89. However, Churchill's most important leadership characteristic was his **conviction**. In one of the darkest moments in British history, on 4th June 1940, when a German invasion seemed imminent, he made a **speech** which characterised his strength and conviction. He said that if Britain was invaded, "We shall fight them on the **landing ground**. We shall fight them on the beaches. We shall fight in the fields and in the street. We shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender." That was enough to unite the nation.



Gandhi

Gandhi is remembered by many for his ability to bring together people of all backgrounds. Indians like to refer to him as the "father of the nation" because of his success in bringing Indians of different religions and ethnic groups together in the political movement. Gandhi had a belief in **collective disobedience** and was against the use of violence in his attempt to evict the British colonialists. One of Gandhi's strongest leadership characteristics was his ability to work towards a common cause. He spent much of his life campaigning for an independent India and even at the time of his death he was trying to unite Hindu and Muslim Indians.



Christopher Columbus

Columbus is generally regarded as the first European to discover the Americas. His most important leadership qualities include **bravery** and **perseverance**. Columbus had an idea to sail westwards across the "Ocean Sea" in order to find a better way to reach the Indies. This was after the defeat of Constantinople, which had made the old land route impractical. To make his idea work,



LEADERS



Columbus needed money. So, he had to persevere for many years before he eventually got the financial support of the Catholic Monarchs of Spain: Ferdinand and Isabelle. Then, he started a voyage into the unknown. At the time, there were many stories of monsters and pirates, and there were theories that the world was **flat**. However, Columbus showed that he was a determined and brave leader. On the 12th October 1492, a Spanish sailor from Seville called Rodrigo de Triana saw America for the first time. Although Columbus was mistaken and had not found a "quick" way to India, he had made one of the most important discoveries in human history.

Indra Krishnamurthy Nooyi

She has achieved much of her success as a leader through hard work and ability. She was educated in her native India and later at Yale School of Management in the USA. She was a successful businesswoman with the companies Motorola and ABB before she moved to PepsiCo.



Whilst working with PepsiCo, she created a new brand called *Yum! Brands Inc.* and she was also an important person in the **takeover** of Tropicana in 1998. Because of her excellent performance, she has now been **promoted** to the position of chairwoman and chief executive of PepsiCo. *Time Magazine* have said she is one of the 100 Most Influential People in the world today and *Fortune Magazine* have said that she is the world's most powerful businesswoman.

Sir Richard Branson

Richard Branson is a very talented **marketer**. He has a natural ability to sell his products and create successful brands. He left school early after receiving poor academic results and created



his first business, a magazine called *Student*. He later sold cheap records from the back of his car before he started his own record shop called *Virgin Records*. From this record shop, Branson has created a £4 billion brand called Virgin which includes Virgin Rail and Virgin Airways. One of Branson's greatest leadership qualities is his ability to see an opportunity. He is also good at self publicity: he often appears on television to promote himself.



King John of England (1199-1216)

And now for an example of a very poor leader. King John is famous for having a disastrous reign as King of England. He lost most of the English land in France, started a civil war amongst English barons and annoyed the **pope**. Apart from this, he also lost a war to his grandmother. And when he tried to transport the crown jewels across England, they sank into a **swamp**. The name John is so closely connected with disaster and failure that, since then, there has never been another King John of England. King John had very little in the way of luck (which is always important for successful leaders) and was also dishonest and very bad at making decisions. ✪



"We shall fight them on the landing ground. We shall fight them on the beaches. We shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender." That was enough to unite the nation

GLOSSARY

- durability** *n*
the ability to survive and last for a long time
- to retire** *vb*
to stop working because you are 65
- conviction** *n*
with great confidence in your beliefs or ability
- a speech** *n*
a formal talk to a group of people / an audience
- a landing ground** *n*
in this case: the place where enemy soldiers arrive on the beaches as part of an invasion
- collective** *adj*
"collective" beliefs, for example, are shared by many different people
- disobedience** *n*
acting against the wishes of the government or an authority
- bravery** *n*
acting decisively in a dangerous situation and not considering your own safety
- perseverance** *n*
the ability to continue doing something even though it is difficult
- flat** *adj*
level and smooth
- a takeover** *n*
if there is a "takeover", one company buys another company
- to promote someone** *exp*
to give someone more job responsibilities and a bigger salary
- a marketer** *n*
someone whose job involves marketing
- the pope** *n*
the head of the Catholic church
- a swamp** *n*
an area of very wet ground

Design Flaw

The controversy surrounding the new British Olympics logo.

It cost more than 400,000 pounds to produce. Fifty thousand people have signed an **online petition** calling for the design to be **scrapped**. And some versions of it have been **withdrawn** online after they **triggered** epileptic fits. The new logo for the 2012 Olympics is causing a **controversy**.



Bad logo

"It's either brilliant or **awful**," said Tony Blair. "I think it's a joke," said the **mayor** of London, Ken Livingstone. "It looks like a kid made it," said 15-year-old Lee. These are just some of the opinions on the new logo for the 2012 Olympics. A survey on the logo also produced some interesting comments. The surveying group was asked why they thought the logo was so unpopular. Thirty percent said it was because the design "doesn't say anything about the UK"; 24% said it "doesn't say anything about London"; 32% simply said it "wasn't a very good logo"; and 14% thought it was because adults do not understand it. Several respondents were also concerned with the fact that the logo cost £400,000 to develop. Seventeen-year-old Matt said, "It makes London look like it has no design talent to do the promoting." Overall, the survey found that 68% of respondents said they "hate" the design.

Holding up

Of course, there have been some who have defended the logo. The original idea was to **tap into** the youth market. One respondent said, "I think it's a brilliant way of introducing the newer generations to the Olympics because it's quite a modern design."

However, Caron, 17, took a much wider view of the whole logo issue: "It doesn't make a difference; the Olympics in London is an amazing thing." A spokesperson for the survey said, "We were pleased to see



more than three-quarters of the young people we surveyed were excited about the Olympics in London.

Our survey respondents had clearly given the matter of the logo itself a lot of thought, and their comments showed quite a sophisticated level of understanding design and marketing and its **purpose**."

Official response

Meanwhile, the government was **keen to** defend the logo. Culture secretary Tessa Jowell insisted that the logo was worth every penny. "At least it's got people talking," she said in its defence, as well as describing it as "**terrific**". Ms Jowell admitted that the graffiti-style logo had "**caused a storm**", but she said that it was "adaptable" and could be used in a "variety of different contexts". She **ended on a defiant note**, "The logo will be the logo for the Olympic games."

On a related topic, Ms Jowell insisted that the planning and development of the Olympics was "on time". She also denied claims that the original budget had trebled, saying, "The original budget for the Olympic park was £2.5bn. It is now £3.1bn. The additional costs represent the scale of our ambition to regenerate the poorest part of London, one of the poorest parts of this country."

Meanwhile, at a press conference, the mayor of London repeated his insistence that the designers should not be paid, but admitted that the logo "may **grow on you**". ☺



GLOSSARY

- an online petition** *n*
a document on a website that is signed by a lot of people. It contains demands for changes
- to scrap** *vb*
to cancel something
- to withdraw** *vb*
to take away
- to trigger** *vb*
to cause
- a controversy** *n*
a scandal; something that causes a division of opinions
- awful** *adj*
terrible; horrible
- a mayor** *n*
an elected leader of a town or city
- to tap into** *phr vb*
if you "tap into" a particular market, you try to enter that market and sell things
- a purpose** *n*
a reason
- keen to** *exp*
if you are "keen to" do something, you really want to do that thing
- terrific** *adj*
wonderful; fantastic. Remember, this word has positive connotations
- to cause a storm** *exp*
to create a scandal or a wide division of opinion
- to end on a defiant note** *exp*
if you "end on a defiant note", you end your talk/speech in a definitive, aggressive and final way
- to grow on you** *exp*
if something "grows on you", you start to like it even though you didn't like it at first



The Restaurant

Social English

Learn the kind of English you need for social occasions.
This month: the restaurant. Listen and repeat these expressions.

What you say

- We'd like a table for two, please.
- I have a reservation under the name of Jones.
- Could you bring us the menu, please?
- Do you have a **set menu**?
- Could you bring us the salt/pepper/ketchup/vinegar, please?
- I'll have the soup as a **starter**.
- I'll have the steak for the **main course**.
- I'll have it **rare** / medium rare / medium / **well done**, please.
- Where's the toilet/bathroom/restroom (US English), please?
- Could I have the **bill**, please?

What you hear

- Do you have a reservation?
- Smoking, or non-smoking?
- Can I get you a drink while you're waiting?
- Are you ready to order yet?
- What would you like for a starter?
- What do you want for the main course?
- What would you like to drink with your meal?
- Would you like any wine with that?
- **Red** or white?
- What would you like to drink?
- How would you like your steak? Rare, medium or well-done?
- Would you like any dessert?
- Would you like any coffee?

What you say

Now use these expressions to practise asking and answering questions. ✚



Part II Now listen to this social English dialogue. In this conversation, Sal is ordering some food at the restaurant.

Waiter: Good afternoon, sir.

Sal: A table for one, please.

Waiter: Certainly. Come this way, please. *(He sits down.)* Here's the menu. *(The waiter gives him the menu.)* Our special today is **mussels** in white wine sauce, and roast beef with **sautéed potatoes**.

Sal: OK.

Waiter: *(After a few minutes the waiter returns.)* Are you ready to order now?

Sal: Yes, thanks. For a starter, I'll have the prawn cocktail.

Waiter: And for the main course?

Sal: I'll have the steak, please.

Waiter: And how would you like your steak?

Sal: I'll have it medium, please.

Waiter: Would you like anything to drink with your meal, sir?

Sal: I'll have a bottle of red wine, please.

Waiter: OK. Your food will be with you in just a minute.

(Half an hour later Sal has finished.) Was everything OK?

Sal: Yes, that was delicious thank you. Could you bring me the bill, please?

Waiter: Right away.



GLOSSARY

a set menu *n*

a menu with a fixed choice of food and a fixed price for the starter, main course and dessert

a starter *n*

the first dish of food that you eat – often a small amount of food

a main course *n*

the principal dish of food, often consisting of meat or fish

rare *adj*

if a steak is "rare", it has been cooked for a very short period of time

well done *adj*

if a steak is "well done", it has been cooked for a longer period of time

the bill *n*

the piece of paper that tells you how much you must pay for your meal

red (wine) *n*

wine that is dark red in colour. Other types of wine are "white wine" and "rosé"

mussels *n*

a type of seafood that is orange inside and often cooked in wine

sautéed potatoes *n*

thin slices of potato that have been cooked quickly in hot oil

Headline news

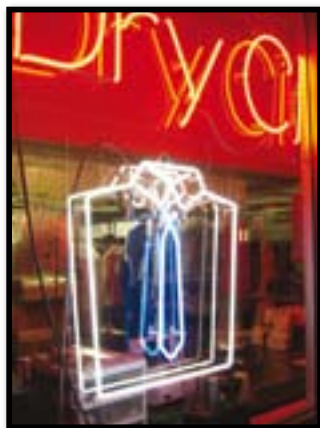
Cruise Ban

"Personal beliefs have absolutely no bearing on the **movie's plot** or themes," Paula Wagner said on hearing that German authorities had banned Tom Cruise from filming at a military site because the actor is a Scientologist. "Scientology masquerades as a religion to make money," a government spokesperson said. Cruise was **set** to play Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg in the film *Valkyrie*, all about the leader of the 1944 **plot** to assassinate Adolf Hitler using a bomb in a **briefcase**.



Trouser Nightmare

A legal case has turned a South Korean's American dream into the American **nightmare**. It all started when an American man took his clothes to a dry cleaner's run by a South Korean family in Washington. A pair of trousers was lost and the man initially demanded \$1,000 compensation. The family refused and so started a long, legal battle. In total, the man is **seeking** more than \$50 million to cover the 1,400 hours he says he spent preparing the case, and the cost of hiring a car every weekend to drive to an alternative dry cleaner's for the next 10 years.



CD Love

There was some good news for Britain's music shops: British shoppers lead the world in CD purchases. Despite the popularity of **downloads**, physical music sales are still strong. Last year, Britons bought an average of 2.7 CDs each. "The rise of downloading in the singles market may have **captured the headlines** over the past couple of years, but when it comes to albums, UK music fans still prefer physical formats," an industry spokesperson said. Britain was top of the table, with the US and Norway close behind.



Cathedral Apology

"We thank Sony for the apology they have made," said a spokesperson from Manchester cathedral, after Sony admitted that images of the cathedral had been used in one of its violent computer games. Senior church officials demanded the withdrawal of the videogame *Resistance: Fall of Man* as it showed a battle inside the building. Another church official added, "We **acknowledge** the admission by Sony that the building in the game is Manchester cathedral. However, we do not move from the position that we are against violence and especially the gun violence seen in this **portrayal** of the cathedral." ☹



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GLOSSARY

- a movie plot** *n*
the story in a film
- set (to do something)** *exp*
to be ready and prepared to do something
- a plot** *n*
a plan to kill someone
- a briefcase** *n*
a thin bag (often black) used for carrying documents
- a nightmare** *n*
a terrible situation
- to seek** *vb*
to look for
- a download** *n*
a music / sound / film file that you take from the internet
- to capture the headlines** *exp*
to do something that is reported in newspapers or on television
- to acknowledge** *vb*
to accept; to admit that something is correct
- a portrayal** *n*
the "portrayal" of something, is the way that it is shown

Little Jokes



CD track 14 US woman & Englishman

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A-H). Then, listen to check your answers. *Answers on page 42*

1. What did the turkey say before it was roasted? _____
2. Why did the police arrest the turkey? _____
3. Which side of the turkey has the most **feathers**? _____
4. Can a turkey jump higher than the Empire State Building? _____
5. Why did the turkey cross the road? _____
6. What "key" has legs and can't open doors? _____
7. Why do turkeys go "gobble, gobble"? _____
8. What goes, "gobble, gobble, ha-ha-ha, plop"? _____



GLOSSARY

a feather *n*
birds' bodies are covered in feathers

a day off *n*
if you have a "day off", you don't go to work because you are sick

foul play *n*
criminal violence, or an action that causes someone's death. "Foul" is pronounced the same as "fowl", which is a bird that can be eaten (turkey, duck, chicken, etc)

stuffed *adj*
two meanings: completely full because you have eaten a lot; if a turkey is "stuffed", it has food inside (a mixture of bread, herbs, onion, etc) for cooking

to laugh your head off *exp*
two meanings: to laugh very, very much; literally, to laugh so much that your head falls off

- A:** Yes. A building can't jump at all.
- B:** Because they never learned to talk.
- C:** It was the chicken's **day off**.
- D:** They suspected it of **foul play**.
- E:** Boy, I'm **stuffed**.
- F:** A turkey **laughing its head off**.
- G:** A turkey.
- H:** The outside.

GRAFFITI



CD track 15 US woman & Englishman

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

I DON'T HAVE A SOLUTION BUT I ADMIRE THE PROBLEM.

NOT ONLY IS THERE NO GOD, BUT JUST TRY GETTING A PLUMBER AT WEEKENDS.

WHY IS THERE ONLY ONE MONOPOLIES COMMISSION?

A CONSERVATIVE IS SOMEONE WHO ADMIRES RADICALS A CENTURY AFTER THEY'RE DEAD.

IF YOU'RE NOT CONFUSED BY ECONOMICS, YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION.

IF ONE SYNCHRONISED SWIMMER DROWNS, DO THE REST HAVE TO DROWN TOO?

GLOSSARY

a plumber *n*
a person whose job is to fix pipes, toilets, bathrooms, etc

a synchronised swimmer *n*
a swimmer who swims as part of a group in competitions / the Olympics

to drown *vb*
to die in water because you cannot breathe

DOG MATTERS BY DANIEL COUTOLNE



GLOSSARY

slander *n*
untrue things that are said about someone and that are designed to damage their reputation

two-faced *adj*
hypocritical – acting as if you have certain positive qualities (honesty, nobility, etc) that you don't really have



CD track 16
Englishman



IT'S "SIR",
TO YOU.

Awards Backlash

Pakistan riots after author receives award.

A week of protests in Pakistan have followed news that Britain has given a controversial writer an important honour. Salman Rushdie has been **awarded** a **knighthood** by the Queen, which means people will have to call him "sir", the most important honour the British can award. This has **angered** people in the Muslim world because Rushdie is the author of a book called *The Satanic Verses*,

which they say insulted the Prophet Mohammed. "I have returned the medals won by my grandfather to the British High Commission because I am so angry," said Arbab Ghulam Rahim, a Pakistani government minister. On the streets people have burnt **effigies** of Salman Rushdie and of the British flag in protest. Another government minister said that "Rushdie **hurt the feelings** of

the Muslim people when he wrote a **blasphemous** book. Awarding him a knighthood makes the relations between religions worse." The British government says that the award is fair and that freedom of expression is important. After the publication of his book in 1988, an order for Rushdie's execution was passed in Iran, and Rushdie has had to spend many years **in hiding**. ❄



Intelligent Girl

Youngest ever member of Mensa.

A girl called Georgia Brown has become the youngest ever member of **Mensa**. The two-year-old



from England scored an **astounding** 152 in an IQ test, and Joan Freeman a psychologist who tested her said she was "**outstanding**". Her parents had noticed early in her life that Georgia was "incredibly quick". Georgia was **crawling** at five months, she was walking at nine months and by eighteen months she was having proper conversations with adults. The IQ test that she received consisted of a forty-five minute assessment in which she was asked to complete a number of different tasks. "One of the most impressive things," said Joan Freeman, "was her ability to draw a circle. Most two year olds cannot do that, but she drew a perfect one". In another part of the test she was asked to answer questions and Professor Freeman said "She could answer some questions that other five or six year olds couldn't." Her parents said, "We are just very **proud** of her." ❄

GLOSSARY

- to award** *vb*
to give a prize to
- a knighthood** *n*
a title given to a man by a British King or queen. Afterwards, the person is known as "sir" + his name
- to anger** *vb*
to make angry
- an effigy** *n*
a figure that represents someone you hate
- to hurt someone's feelings** *exp*
to do something that affects someone emotionally and negatively
- blasphemous** *adj*
that is disrespectful to God or a religion
- in hiding** *exp*
a person who is "in hiding" is staying somewhere secret so others can't catch him/her
- Mensa** *n*
an organisation for very intelligent people
- astounding** *adj*
incredible
- outstanding** *adj*
of a very high quality
- to crawl** *vb*
to move forward on your hands and knees as babies do
- to be proud of someone** *exp*
to feel very pleased about someone's abilities


HAPPY ANNIVERSARY


SEPTEMBER



Come and celebrate the month with us in our new series on anniversaries. This month: September, of course. By Mark Pierro.

 **September 1st 1715**
Louis XIV of France, the "Sun King", died after a **reign** of 72 years, longer than any other French or other major European monarch. Long live the king!

 **September 2nd 1666**
The Great Fire of London. A large fire began in London and burned for three days, destroying 10,000 buildings, including St. Paul's Cathedral. Incredibly, only 16 people are known to have died.

 **September 3rd 301**
San Marino, one of the smallest nations in the world, and the world's oldest republic still in existence, was founded by Saint Marinus.


 **September 3rd 1976**
The American Viking 2 **spacecraft** landed on Mars and took close-up, colour photos of the planet's surface, possibly in preparation for an invasion.

 **September 4th 476**
Twelve-year-old Romulus Augustus, the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, was **deposed**. Poor **chap**.

 **September 5th 1972**
A Palestinian terrorist group called "Black September" attacked and killed Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games.


 **September 6th 1522**
The first ship to circumnavigate the globe returned


to Spain with Juan Sebastián Elcano and 17 **survivors**. They had formed part of Ferdinand Magellan's 265-man expedition.

 **September 7th 1986**
Desmond Tutu became the first person of African descent to lead the Anglican Church in South Africa.

 **September 10th 1812**
An American **fleet** led by Oliver Hazard Perry wins a battle against British forces in what as known as the Battle of Lake Erie. In June that same year, the United States had declared war against the British because of British military support for Native Americans. Apparently the Indians were trying to defend their tribal lands from American settlers.

 **September 13th 1993**
After several rounds of secret negotiations in Norway, PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin formally signed the Oslo Peace Accords.

 **September 15th 1835**
Charles Darwin reached the Galápagos Islands, where he began to develop his theories of evolution.

 **September 18th 1998**
The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a non-profit organisation that manages


the assignment of domain names and IP addresses on the internet, was established. The internet was born.


 **September 19th 1893**
New Zealand became the first country to introduce **universal suffrage**, following the women's suffrage movement led by Kate Sheppard. Good on ya, Kate!

 **September 21st 1937**
J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* was first published.

 **September 22nd 1980**
Iraq launched an invasion of Iran, starting the Iran-Iraq War (with the backing of the United States, we **hasten to add**).

 **September 24th 622**
Muhammad and his followers from Mecca completed their "hirja" (migration) to Medina. This date marks the first year of the Islamic calendar.

 **September 25th 1513**
Vasco Núñez de Balboa became the first European to see the Pacific Ocean, which he named Mar del Sur (The South Sea). At the time, he was standing on a **peak** in present day Panama.

 **September 30th 1991**
Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown in a **coup d'état** and replaced by General Raoul Cédras. This caused a large-scale **exodus** of **boat people**. ✪

Events for September 2007

- September 5-9th** – 21st World Congress for Dance Research in Athens
- September 7th** – The 2007 Rugby World Cup begins in France with the host nation playing Argentina in Paris
- September 8-9th** – The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation will host its annual city meeting in Sydney
- September 9th** – The first Sunday games of the 2007 NFL season are played
- September 10th** – The FIFA Women's World Cup 2007 begins
- September 13th** – Ramadan begins (Islamic)
- September 22nd** – October 7th – The Oktoberfest in Munich



Countries celebrating their independence

- September 1st** – Uzbekistan
- September 2nd** – Vietnam
- September 3rd** – Qatar
- September 6th** – Swaziland
- September 8th** – Republic of Macedonia
- September 18th** – Chile

GLOSSARY

- a reign** *n*
when a king or queen "reigns", he or she rules a country
- a spacecraft** *n*
a rocket or other vehicle that can travel into space
- to land** *vb*
to come to the ground in a controlled manner
- to be deposed** *exp*
to be forced to stop being a ruler/king/queen, etc
- a chap** *n inform*
a man
- a survivor** *n*
a person who doesn't die in an accident or disaster
- a fleet** *n*
a group of ships organised to fight, etc
- universal suffrage** *n*
the right of everyone to vote in an election
- we hasten to add** *exp*
we would like to tell you quickly
- a peak** *n*
the top of a mountain
- a coup d'état** *n*
when there is a "coup d'état", a group of people attack the government and take power
- an exodus** *n*
if there is an "exodus", a number of people leave a country because of war, famine, etc
- boat people** *n*
illegal immigrants who arrive in large numbers in boats (often very crowded boats)

VOCABULARY POLITICS

Learn some useful words and expressions to talk about politics.



Voter – someone who votes in an election.

Polling station – the place (often a room in a building) where people go to vote during an election. Election day is also known as “polling day”.

Ballot box – the box where you place your vote during an election. The voting slip (the paper with your choice of candidate on it) is also known as a “ballot”.

Voting/polling booth – the compartment in a polling station where you can put your vote in the ballot box.

Election – if there is an “election”, people vote for candidates from different political parties.

Right-wing & left-wing – very generally, right-wing parties or politicians are traditional and support a capitalist economy; left-wing are more socialist in their thinking.

Party – a political organisation. In Britain the main parties are the Conservatives (the right-wing party), and the Labour Party (the left-wing party). In America, it’s the Republicans and Democrats respectively.

Parliament – the group of people who are elected and who have a seat in the building where parliament sits. In Britain, parliament sits in the Houses of Parliament, in London.

Seat – a place in parliament for people who are elected and have won a “seat”.

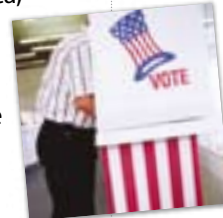
MP – a member of parliament: someone who has been elected and won a seat in parliament.

Electorate – the people who have the right to vote in an election. Each individual voter is known as an “elector”.

Politically correct (pc) – if you are “politically correct”, you are careful with the

type of language you use and try not to offend any group, minority or ethnic association. The opposite is “politically incorrect” (non-pc).

Lobby group – a group who wants to influence politicians. In America, the gun lobby is one of the most powerful lobbies. They try to persuade politicians to allow free access to guns.



Silent majority – the mass of voters who don’t often protest or voice their opinions, but who have enormous power. They are often typical middle class voters.

To spin – to attempt to change the way the public

sees events and things. This can be done by lying, changing the facts, or simply choosing which facts to mention. Political advisers who “spin” events are known as “spin doctors”. Here’s an example sentence with “spin”

in it: “They put some spin on the terrible news so it didn’t appear to be so bad.”

Swing vote – the undecided section of the electorate who can “swing” (change) the outcome of an election one way or the other.

Whip – the member of parliament who makes sure that all other members of his/her party vote the way they are supposed to vote. ♡

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CD track 17 Irishman

SONG

Century *by Garrett Wall* by Garrett Wall © Garrett Wall 2007

We've come so close so many times, you'd think we'd learn,
Still I find that time will see the **tables turned**,
And all around the masses **live in ignorance**,
Their lives controlled by lotteries of **providence**.

I can't ignore the daily news of **shattered lives**,
The innocent, old and young so victimised,
No longer safe, we've **swapped** our smiles for locked doors,
And sit inside and **marvel at** these TV wars.

Yeah, century.

We take much more than we'll ever need and still we **crave**,
A moment's **lust** for a lifetimes trust in **shallow graves**,
We hold our hearts religiously but we **hold our tongues**,
And stand in line for **firing squads** and ignore the young.



New Album

Garrett Wall, singer-songwriter, native Dubliner and Madrid resident, launched his latest album (as yet untitled) at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August. There will be a tour of Ireland in

October. The unusual format – buzzing with the brilliant dynamic of the four members – guitar, trumpet, bass and cajón (flamenco box drum) is powerfully well-rounded and intimate (through the use of the cajón) yet sharply-defined by the trumpet.

Cajón: Robbie K Jones (Ohio). Bass: Dave Mooney (Dublin).

Trumpet: Howard Brown (UK). For more information, please visit:

www.myspace.com/garrettwall



GLOSSARY

tables turned *exp*
if the "tables have turned", a situation is completely different or the opposite from before

to live in ignorance *exp*
to be in a situation in which you have a lack of knowledge about things

providence *n*
God or a force which is believed to control the things that happen to us

shattered lives *n*
lives that have been destroyed and ruined

to swap *vb*
if you "swap" something with another person, you give that person one thing and they give you something else in return

to marvel at *exp*
to express great surprise, wonder or admiration for something

to crave *vb*
to want something very much

lust *n*
strong desire for something or someone

a shallow grave *n*
a small hole (not very deep) in the ground for a dead body

to hold your tongue *exp*
not to speak, even though you want to say something

a firing squad *n*
a line of soldiers who execute someone by firing their guns at him/her

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TYPICAL DIALOGUES POLITICS

Listen to this dialogue and learn some useful vocabulary and expressions.



CD track 19 Irishwoman & Englishman



In this conversation a television journalist is interviewing Gordon Slaped, a spokesperson for Power for the **Baldies** political party. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions.
1. Who does Gordon represent?
2. What happens to the interviewer in the end?

Answers on page 42.

Interviewer: So, Gordon, first of all, thank you so much for coming to talk to us.

Gordon: My pleasure.

Interviewer: Well, my first question is, what exactly do Power for the Baldies **stand for**?

Gordon: We stand for equal rights and equal opportunities for all bald people, regardless of race, **creed** or ethnic background.

Interviewer: Interesting.

Gordon: We represent the millions of **follically-challenged** people around the country who feel it is time to **stand up for** their rights and demand social justice.

Interviewer: And what exactly are you **calling for**?

Gordon: We demand an end to **discrimination** against baldies, an end to rejection, humiliation and **ridicule**, and, more specifically, a complete **ban** on all jokes about bald men. It isn't funny. It isn't clever. And it isn't **fair**.

Interviewer: And what are you hoping to achieve in this election?

Gordon: Our **aim** is to get enough votes for a couple of **seats in parliament**. We will then be pressuring the



government for **tax rebates** for baldies, free housing for baldies, and reduced-rate public transport **passes** for elderly baldies.

Interviewer: Now, critics say that your policies are somewhat radical. What do you have to say about that?

Gordon: We say, come and join us. **Shave off** your hair, and become a baldie.

Interviewer: Some of your more radical policies include **outing closet** baldies. Do you really need to go to such extremes? Or is it just a **political stunt**?

Gordon: Absolutely not. We feel that the time has come to say, "I am bald and I am **proud**."

Throw away that **wig**, tear off that **toupee** and knock off that hat. You are bald, and you should not be ashamed.

Now, what about you, Teresa? Don't you have something you'd like to share with us?

Interviewer: What?

Gordon: I think you know what I'm talking about.

Interviewer: What? What's going on?

Gordon: Come on, admit it, Teresa. You are a baldie too, aren't you?

Interviewer: But... (Gordon pulls off the interviewer's wig.)

Gordon: There. Look, now that wasn't so painful, was it?

Interviewer: Oh, yes. That feels much better. Freedom at last. Thank you very much.

Gordon: My pleasure. Now, how about becoming a member of our little club? ☺



GLOSSARY

- a baldie** *n inform*
an informal word for a person with no hair on his/her head
- to stand for** *phr vb*
the ideas that a group "stands for" are the ideas they support
- a creed** *n*
a belief
- follically-challenged** *exp inform*
an informal expression that means "with very little hair". Literally, a "hair follicle" is part of the skin from which hair grows
- to stand up for something** *exp*
to defend something or someone
- to call for something** *exp*
to demand something
- discrimination** *n*
treating one person or group of people less fairly than another group
- ridicule** *n*
if someone is the object of "ridicule", other people laugh at him/her
- a ban** *n*
a prohibition
- fair** *adj*
just; being equal to everyone
- an aim** *n*
an objective
- a seat in parliament** *n*
if you get a "seat in parliament", you are elected to parliament
- a tax rebate** *n*
an amount of money that is paid back to you because you paid too much tax
- a pass** *n*
a monthly or annual ticket that allows you to use the bus, train, etc
- to shave off** *phr vb*
to cut off hair
- to out** *vb*
to inform the press / the public about the secret life of a person
- closet** *adj*
if you are a "closet" baldie, for example, you hide the fact that you are bald by wearing a wig, etc
- a political stunt** *n*
an action designed to generate publicity for a political party
- proud** *adj*
if you feel "proud" about something you have done, you are pleased with yourself
- a wig** *n*
a piece of false hair that covers your head
- a toupee** *n*
a piece of false hair that covers a part of your head

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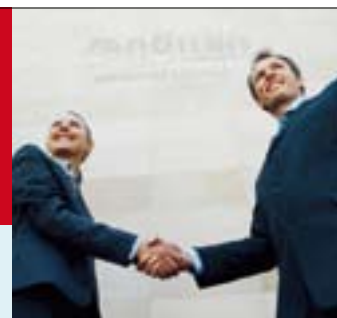
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DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: SUCCESS



CD track 20 Englishman & British man

Here are some more useful **collocations*** for you to learn. The images will help you associate the expression with its meaning. This month: success.



Be riding high

To be very successful.
"With 2 **hit singles** in the **charts**, the band are riding high."



Go from strength to strength

To become better and better or more and more successful.
"Since she took over as president, the company has gone from strength to strength."



Pass with flying colours

To complete a difficult activity very successfully; to pass an exam with a very high score.
"The course was very difficult, but she passed with flying colours."



Claw your way back from something

To succeed in improving your situation by making a very determined effort.
"The team were losing 6-0, but they managed to **claw** their way **back** from defeat to win 6-9."



Win something hands down

To win easily.
"I **challenged** her to a game of chess, but she beat me hands down."



Lead the field

To be better and more successful than all the people who are competing against you.
"The British scientific team lead the field in nano technology development."



Make or break something

To make something a success or a failure.
"This new, expensive but innovative product will either make or break the company."



Sink or swim

To fail or to succeed.
"The new sales team were given absolutely no training. They were left to either **sink** or swim."

* Collocations

A collocation is a sequence of two or more words that go together to form fixed expressions ("heavy rain", for example). Learning lots of collocations will improve your level of English, and help you with exams such as First Certificate, Advanced and Proficiency, which test your knowledge of these things.

GLOSSARY

a hit single *n*
a song that is very popular
the charts *n*
the official list that shows which songs are the most popular
to claw back *phr vb*
to get something that you had previously lost. Literally, a "claw" of an animal or bird are the thin, hard, curved nails
to challenge *vb*
to invite someone to fight or compete with you
to sink *vb*
if a ship "sinks", it goes under the water

Embarrassing

A look at some more of those embarrassing moments.

moments

Here's another part of our series on embarrassing moments.

Lift Down

I had my most embarrassing moment in an **elevator**. We were staying in a hotel. One day, I was going down in the elevator when another person, who I didn't know, started talking to me. He asked, "So, how are you?" and I answered, "Fine", somewhat surprised that he was talking to me so enthusiastically. He then asked me, "What else are you up to?" and I replied, "Nothing much".



At this point, he turned to me and said, "Do you mind, I'm on the phone." It was then that I realised he was talking on his mobile.

Jena, Boston.

Wardrobe Wonder

I was in a hotel in Japan once. Some film was **jammed** in my camera and I wanted to



get it out. However, I needed to do it in a dark room to protect the pictures I'd already taken. So, I got into the **wardrobe** and carefully **removed** the film and **wound it up**. However, while I was in the wardrobe, a **maid** came into the room. Imagine her surprise as she saw me coming out of the wardrobe for no apparent reason. How embarrassing!
 Sam, Tokyo.



Shower Singing

My brother really embarrassed me in front of my friends. I was in the shower once and, as usual, I was singing away. Without realising it, my brother was recording me with a little MP3 recorder. I was singing a terribly bad version of *Macho Man* by the *Village People*. Anyway, a few months later, I was at a party when I suddenly heard this terrible version of *Macho Man* coming from the stereo system. And, yes, you guessed it, it was me singing. All my friends thought it was hilarious, but I was just so embarrassed.

Sally, Birmingham.

Toilet Terror

I was in a **public toilet** once when I had an embarrassing experience. I'd been walking in the park and my shoes were

really muddy. So, I went into a toilet in a department store to get some **toilet paper** so I could clean them. So, there I was, standing next to the sink with a piece of very dirty-looking toilet paper in my hand



when this man walks in. He takes one look at me and walks out, **muttering** "disgusting" under his breath.

Bob, Brighton.

Ski Run

I once went skiing with a group of friends. It was the first time we'd been skiing together. For years, I'd been telling everyone what a great skier I was. Anyway, on our first day on the slopes, we were all waiting by the ski lift when I suddenly **lost my balance** and skied right into a plastic



fence. My skis got stuck in the holes in the **fence** and three ski monitors had to come and help me get out. I was so embarrassed.

Sven, Sweden. ❄️

Why not write in with your own embarrassing moments? Write to moments@hotenglishmagazine.com and you may win a prize.



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GLOSSARY

- an elevator** *n* US a device that carries you from one floor to another floor in a building.
- A "lift" in British English
- jammed** *adj* if a machine becomes "jammed", it becomes fixed in a position and you can't move or use it
- a wardrobe** *n* a tall piece of furniture in which you can hang your clothes
- to remove** *vb* to take out
- to wind up (film)** *phr vb* to turn a button on the camera so that the film goes around a reel. Once the film is "wound up", you can take it out
- a maid** *n* a person who cleans the rooms in a hotel
- a public toilet** *n* a place with little rooms where you can go to the toilet
- toilet paper** *n* paper used for cleaning yourself in a toilet
- to mutter** *vb* to say something very quietly so you cannot be heard properly
- to lose your balance** *n* to fall down
- a fence** *n* a barrier made of wood or plastic between two areas of land



CD track 21 Englishman & British man

Quirky News

Unusual news stories from around the world.

For Real



A New Zealand couple are having some problems registering their new baby's name. Paul and Sally Cheeka wanted to name their baby son "4real". However, they were told that "4real" can't be used on a birth certificate because numerals are not allowed.

The government office has opened negotiations with the parents. This is because of a law that says that all unusual names must be given case-by-case consideration. A government spokesperson said, "The name has not at this stage been **rejected**. We are currently **in discussions** with the parents to **clarify the situation**." Under New Zealand law, all children must be registered within two months of birth. The baby will be registered as "Real" if no **compromise is reached**.

Bad Golfer



A golfer who hit a bad shot started a 20-acre fire. Jim Palo knocked his ball into the grass outside a golf course in New Mexico. However, when he tried to hit the ball back onto the course, his club **struck** a stone that created a **spark** that started the fire.

After a few minutes trying to **put out** the fire, Jim gave up and called the fire service.

"He was totally honest about it," a fire chief told journalists. Within hours, about 50 fire fighters and fire engines were in the area and spent hours putting out the **blaze**.

"We had a lot of equipment out there," the spokesperson said. "Eventually, we got the fire under control."

Unlawful Destruction



A taxi driver who tried to help some accident victims watched in horror as his cab was completely destroyed. "I was the first person to stop at the accident scene," Sam Crier explained, "so I got out of my car and assisted the injured. It was minus 25°C, so I let two slightly-injured victims sit in my Mercedes taxi while we waited for the rescue services to come. When the **fire brigade** arrived, they asked me where the victims were, so I **pointed to my** car. However, before I could explain to them that my taxi had not been involved in the crash, they took out their **axes** and started cutting the **roof** off, without asking the survivors if they could simply get out through the doors."

As a result, the taxi was completely destroyed, and now, poor Mr Crier is trying to convince the **insurance company** that he did not **make up** the story.

GLOSSARY

- to reject** *vb*
if you "reject" something, you do not accept it
- in discussions** *exp*
if you are "in discussions", you are talking and negotiating with someone
- to clarify a situation** *exp*
to make a situation clear
- to reach a compromise** *exp*
to come to an agreement with someone
- to strike (struck)** *vb*
to hit
- a spark** *n*
a very small piece of burning material
- to put out** *phr vb*
to extinguish (a fire)
- a blaze** *n*
a very big and powerful fire
- the fire brigade** *n*
the organisation that deals with fires and tries to put them out
- to point to** *phr vb*
to use your finger to indicate something
- an axe** *n*
a large tool with a wooden handle and a piece of sharp metal at the end – often used for cutting trees
- a roof** *n*
the top part of a house outside the house
- an insurance company** *n*
a company that pays you money if you have an accident, etc
- to make up** *phr vb*
to invent (a story)

* 4 Real

The expression "for real" has a number of meanings in colloquial, slang English. For example:

A: Sam is a really bad man.
B: For real. (Yes, I know.)

A: I just won the lottery.
B: For real? (Really?)



British bar chat

Saggy Trousers

This month Rob and Aifric are talking about **saggy trousers**.

- Mike:** Hey, Aifric, how are you going?
Aifric: Hi, Rob, how are you?
Rob: Good. Really good. Good to see you again.
Aifric: Yeah, **likewise**.
Rob: Hey, listen, have you heard what's going on in Madrid? You know these, erm, saggy trousers, the trousers that kind of fall down by the **ankles**. They're trying to **ban** them.
Aifric: What?
Rob: Yeah, I know it's ridiculous. **I mean**, I think they're, well, they're, they're all right. I think, I haven't got any problems with them.
Aifric: Well, God, well, I think it's a great idea to ban them personally. I'm **sick of** walking behind people on the metro and having to look at some 15-year-old's **stripy boxers**.
Rob: Well, as long as they've got boxers on, I mean, it could be worse if they were **going commando**.
Aifric: Yes, that's true, I suppose. Well, I don't know, I think it's a good idea to ban them anyway. It's a ridiculous **trend**.
Rob: Well, I don't know. I disagree. Whilst I'm not a particular fan of them, I think, you know, people have the right to wear whatever they like. Freedom of expression and all that. I think this is **dangerous ground** for the government to be on, to be honest.
Aifric: Mmm... **that's fair enough**, I suppose. But what about the, er, **indecent exposure**?
Rob: Well, like I say, **as long as** they're wearing **underwear**. They're not really exposing themselves, are they?
Aifric: Mmm... I don't know, I think you have to **draw the line** somewhere.
Rob: Mmm... draw the line at the **visible panty line**. ❖



CD tracks 23-24

US bar chat

Flexitime

This month Jackie and Mary are talking about **flexitime**.

- Jackie:** Hey, what's up? How's it going?
Mary: Hi, how are you? You're a bit late tonight.
Jackie: I know. **My gosh**. My day's been crazy. All day I've been running late. I got to work late today too.
Mary: Did you?
Jackie: Yeah, but, you know, I think it's crazy. I don't think we should have to come in at a certain time every day. I think we should have more flexibility.
Mary: Did you get into trouble because you arrived so late?
Jackie: Well, no but just, you know, I got one of those **stares** where I could feel that it wasn't right that I got there late. And, you know, things happen. You know, er, my dog got, ran out and I couldn't find him. And I was so worried, and, you know, life happens sometimes. You can't always get there at the same exact time.
Mary: Yeah, you need flexibility. But, I have flexitime where I can come in at any time and then make up the hours, but I don't actually like it because it doesn't give me any motivation to get up in the morning and get going.
Jackie: Really? You don't like it?
Mary: No, I'd prefer to have a fixed schedule: 9 to 5 and get out of there.
Jackie: Well, I would love the flexi schedule.
Mary: Is that why you're late tonight? Did you have to **make up** your hours?
Jackie: Erm, well, yeah, I just, you know, I had more work to get done. I got there late, and I, I still wasn't done by the time that I had to leave. So, I had to stay later, yeah. ❖



GLOSSARY

- saggy trousers** *n*
trousers that hang down very low on the body
likewise *exp*
the same
an ankle *n*
the joint between your foot and your leg
to ban *vb*
to prohibit
I mean *exp*
people often use this word for emphasis in a conversation
to be sick of something *exp*
to be tired of something
stripy *adj*
with lines of colour that are different from the area of colour next to them
boxers *n*
clothing you wear under your trousers. They are like mini shorts
to go commando *exp inform*
to wear nothing under your trousers; to wear no underwear
a trend *n*
a fashion
dangerous ground *exp*
if you are on "dangerous ground", you are doing something potentially illegal
that's fair enough *exp*
that's OK; that's all right
indecent exposure *n*
showing private parts of your body
as long as *exp*
provided that
underwear *n*
clothing you wear under your trousers
to draw the line *exp*
to set limits
a visible panty line *n*
the line created by women's underwear (panties) that can be seen under trousers or a skirt
flexitime *n*
if a company has a policy of "flexitime", you can come into work when you like and do your hours when you like
my gosh *exp*
an exclamation of surprise or shock
a stare *n*
if someone gives you "a stare", they look at you continuously
to make up *phr vb*
to invent

Moore Attack

Michael Moore silences his critics.



Michael Moore. You either love him or hate him. He wins film awards, he has lots of fans. At the same time, there are also numerous anti-Michael Moore blogs. However, just recently, Moore managed to **outmanoeuvre** one of his greatest opponents. Find out how.

Desperate

Jim Kenefick has spent years attacking Michael Moore. Kenefick's work consists of trying to expose Moore's "**deceptions** and **half-truths**". He does this through the website www.moorewatch.com with the objective of "Watching Michael Moore's every move". But now Mr Kenefick has found himself in a difficult situation.

The story began in 2006, when Mr Kenefick was **struggling** to pay for **healthcare** for his wife. She was recovering from a neurological disorder and had no medical insurance. In desperation, Mr Kenefick, whose site is one of the most popular anti-Moore blogs, **posted a note** on the homepage. "If you can help, I will be **in your debt** for all of time," it said.

Help

On 1st May, Mr Kenefick received a cheque from an anonymous individual. The 12,000 dollars was the equivalent to a year's medical fees for his wife. It was enough to ease the crisis and ensure the continuation of the website. So, Mr Kenefick **banked**

the cheque and put up a thank-you note to the person he called his "**guardian angel**". For a while, Kenefick had no idea who the mystery person was. But eventually, someone left a message on Mr Kenefick's **answer machine**. "I am the donor," he said, adding, "I wish you my best." And the mystery man's name was? Yes, you guessed it: Michael Moore. Later Mr Kenefick explained why he accepted the cheque. "I was **led to believe** this was a private individual that wanted to remain anonymous who just wanted to help me. What kind of **moron** turns down a free 12 **grand**?"

Oh, dear

Mr Kenefick's first reaction was anger. "Nice try, **dude**. But I'm not going to play your game. My accepting that donation has absolutely **no bearing on** the larger debate about healthcare in America." But Mr Kenefick has since **softened his attitude**. In an interview with Newsweek, he said he had no issue with Moore as a human. "Mike's not the devil or anything. It's not like Joe Stalin made me an offer." Yeah, right. ☺

Michael Moore

Michael Moore was born in Flint, Michigan April 23 1954. He studied journalism at the University of Michigan-Flint. His first film was *Roger & Me* (1989). His first big **hit** was *Bowling for Columbine* (2002), which was an attack on the gun lobby in the States and the NRA (the National Rifle Association), and the even bigger hit *Fahrenheit 9/11* (2004), which made fun of President Bush.



GLOSSARY

- to outmanoeuvre someone** *exp* to gain an advantage over your opponent in a clever way
- deception** *n* the act of tricking someone or lying to them
- a half-truth** *n* a lie
- to struggle** *vb* to try desperately to do something
- healthcare** *n* medical assistance provided by the government
- to post a note** *exp* to put a message (on a website)
- in someone's debt** *exp* if you are "in someone's debt", that person has done you a big, big favour and you owe them a favour in return
- to bank a cheque** *exp* to take a cheque to the bank and to put the amount into your account
- a guardian angel** *n* a person who protects you
- an answer machine** *n* a machine that is part of a telephone for voice messages. Also known as an "answering machine"
- led to believe something** *exp* tricked into believing something
- a moron** *n inform* an idiot
- a grand** *n inform* one thousand
- dude** *n inform US* friend
- no bearing on** *exp* no relation to; no connection with
- to soften your attitude** *exp* to become less critical
- an insurance company** *n* a company that pays you money if you have an accident, etc
- a hit** *n* a very successful film, song, etc

Sicko



Michael Moore's latest film is *Sicko* (which premiered at Cannes on the day that Moore admitted to being Kenefick's "guardian angel"). *Sicko* is directed by Moore and is a documentary about the highly-profitable American health care industry. The film investigates the US healthcare system with a focus on the behaviour of large health **insurance companies**. Its main message is that the present US health-care system is designed to maximise profit by minimising the care delivered to patients.

The stories include those of people who died because the insurance company refused treatment, or others who had to pay large bills after receiving treatment. One scene shows a clip of Dr Linda Peeno, a former medical reviewer for a health insurer, saying that her job was to save money for the company by denying necessary operations. Also during the film, the American system is compared to those in Canada, Britain and France, which have free and full coverage for their citizens.



Here are some more crazy laws from the US. (US English spelling)

Hotel sheets must be exactly 99 inches long and 81 inches wide. (Indiana)

It is forbidden to eat watermelon in the park. (Indiana)



It is illegal for barbers to threaten to cut off kid's ears. (Indiana)

Within four hours of eating garlic, a



person may not enter a movie house, theater, or ride a public streetcar. (Indiana)

It is illegal to make a monkey smoke a cigarette. (Indiana)



No one may throw an old computer across the street at their neighbor. (Indiana)



Anyone 14 or older who profanely curses, damns or swears by the name of God, Jesus Christ or the Holy Ghost, shall be fined one to three dollars for each offense, with

a maximum fine of ten dollars per day. (Indiana)

One-armed piano players must perform for free. (Iowa)

Kisses may last for no more than five minutes. (Iowa)



The fire department is required to practice fire fighting for fifteen minutes before attending a fire. (Iowa)

Horses are forbidden to eat fire hydrants. (Iowa)



One must obtain written permission from the City Council before throwing



bricks into a highway. (Iowa)

Within the city limits, a man may not wink at any woman he does not know. (Iowa)



Rabbits may not be shot from motorboats. (Kansas)

The state game rule prohibits the use of mules to hunt ducks. (Kansas)



Hitting a vending machine that stole your money is illegal. (Kansas)

Riding an animal down any road is against the law. (Kansas)

All cars entering the city limits must first sound their horn to warn the horses of their arrival. (Kansas)



No one may wear a bee in their hat.

GLOSSARY

- an inch** *n*
a measurement – about 3 cm
- to threaten** *vb*
to promise to do something bad to someone if they don't do what you want
- a streetcar** *n* *US*
a type of electric train for carrying people in a city. A "tram" in British English
- profanely** *adv*
showing disrespect for someone's religion
- to curse / damn / swear** *vb*
to use rude or offensive language
- to perform** *vb*
to act/sing/dance, etc in front of an audience
- to attend** *vb*
to go to
- a fire hydrant** *n*
a pipe in the street from which fire fighters can get water
- a brick** *n*
a rectangular piece of baked clay (often orange in colour) used for building houses
- to wink** *vb*
to close and open one of your eyes as a way of communicating with someone
- a mule** *n*
an animal that is half horse and half donkey
- a vending machine** *n*
a machine that sells tobacco, chocolate, crisps, drinks, etc
- a horn** *n*
an object on a car that makes a sound when you press it. It is used as a way of communicating with other drivers
- a bee** *n*
a black and yellow insect that makes honey



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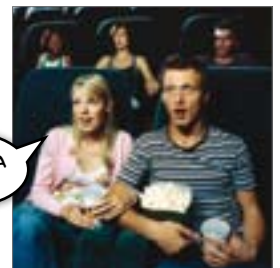
DICTIONARY OF SLANG

Here we've got some examples of how to say things in different situations.

 Situation	 Formal	 Relaxed	 Informal
A friend earns one thousand euros a week.	She receives one thousand euros every week in compensation for her labour.	She gets a thousand a week.	She's pulling in a grand a week.
You went to see a psychiatrist.	I underwent a session on the couch with a psychiatrist.	I went to see a psychiatrist.	I saw a shrink.
A friend is acting in a silly and irritating way.	Stop acting in an immature and juvenile manner.	Stop messing around.	Stop goofing around.
You suggest going to the cinema.	Would you like to spend a pleasurable hour observing a cinematographic production?	Would you like to go to the cinema?	Fancy seeing a flick? Fancy going to the movies?
You went to Paris for the weekend and the company paid.	I didn't have to contribute in any way to the sojourn to Paris.	The company paid for the trip to Paris.	The trip to Paris was a freebie.
You don't understand what someone is saying.	I'm sorry but I fail to grasp your meaning.	I don't understand what you're saying.	I don't get it.



CD track 27



GLOSSARY

Please note that some of the words in this glossary box are literal translations of parts of idiomatic expressions.

a couch *n*
a sofa

fancy seeing... *? exp*
would you like to see?

Answers

Trivia Matching
page 16

1F 2C 3G 4A 5H 6I 7L 8K 9J 10E
11B 12D

Jokes
page 29

1E 2D 3H 4A 5C 6G 7B 8F

Typical Dialogues
page 34

1. Gordon represents bald people.
2. Gordon takes off the interviewer's wig.

ANIMAL IDIOMS



CD track 29 Englishman & US woman

GLOSSARY

in a bad mood *exp*
angry
a sore head *n*
if your head is "sore", it hurts you
cunning *adj*
with an ability to get things in a clever way, often by tricking people
a hare *n*
a type of large rabbit
a hound *n*
a dog

This month we are looking at some Animal idioms.



Like a bear with a sore head

To be **in a bad mood** which causes you to complain a lot and to treat other people badly.
"If he doesn't eat when he's hungry, he's like a bear with a **sore head**."



A leopard can't/doesn't change its spots

A person's character (especially a bad character) will never change, even if they pretend that it has.
"I doubt that becoming religious will have changed her very much. A leopard can't change its spots."



As cunning as a fox

Very clever and good at appearing to be nice, but always getting what you want.
"He seems to be really nice and friendly, but be careful because he's as **cunning** as a fox."



Be a scapegoat

If you are a "scapegoat", you are punished for the sins or crimes of others, or you are blamed for something bad.
"I don't think I deserve to be the scapegoat for the poor sales results."



Run with the hare and hunt with the hounds

To support two competing sides in an argument.
"You've got to decide where you stand on this issue. You can't run with the **hare** and hunt with the **hounds**."



Kill the fatted calf

To celebrate the arrival of someone you haven't seen for a long time.
"John's coming home. Let's kill the fatted calf!"



Scam City

Clever, but illegal, ways and means of getting money.



This is the second part of our series on **scams**. Learn from the pros.



The Beijing tea scam

This is a famous scam in and around Beijing, China. The con artists (usually female

and working in pairs) will approach tourists and try to make friends. After chatting, they will suggest a trip to see a Chinese tea ceremony, claiming that they have never seen one before. Once they are in the tearoom (which is usually a house or restaurant that belongs to **accomplices** of the other con artists), the victim is served a cup of very cheap tea by someone dressed in a traditional Chinese costume. After the ceremony, the victim is presented with a **bill**, charging upwards of 50 euros **per head**. The con artists will then hand over their money, and the tourist is obliged to do the same.

The undercover cop

For this scam, the con artist **pretends** to be an **undercover police officer**. The con artist will stop a car on a motorway and show a **fake badge**. He may ask to see the victim's **wallet notes**. The con artist then gets into the fake police car and drives away with the victim's money. Other variations include taking the victim's luggage to the police car, and then driving away.



The worthless prize scam

This involves **cold calling** potential victims and offering them a chance to enter a fantastic competition. The winning prize is something of great value such as a **top-of-the-range car**

or even a house. Other prizes are of a lesser value. However, in order to enter the competition, the victims must first pay a sum of money. Of course, the victims never win the big prize, and if they do win, it is always a prize of a lower value than the amount of money they have paid.



The confusing change ruse

This scam has been featured in a number of films (including *The Grifters* and *Paper Moon*). It's quite complicated. The con artist buys something in a shop that costs, for example, \$4.20. He pays with a 20-



dollar bill and gets \$15.80 change. He leaves, but then comes back a few

minutes later with 20 cents saying, "Hey, could you give me a 20-dollar-note because I don't want to carry so much change around with me." Usually, the shopkeeper is so confused that he/she will give the con artist another twenty-dollar bill. In the end, the victim gives change twice.

The rabid dog scam

For this scam, the con artist is in the park and waits for a dog to come along. When the owner isn't looking, the con artist screams and pretends that the dog has



bitten him, **spreading** a bit of fake blood over his arm or leg. He then threatens to go to the police unless the victim pays a lot of money. Most victims pay because they are afraid of having their dog **put down**.



The bricks in the box scam

The con artist offers a top-of-the-range TV or DVD player for a very low price.

The victim buys it and is given a box that supposedly contains the TV or DVD player. Of course, when the victim takes it home, he discovers that the box is full of **bricks**.

GLOSSARY

- a scam** *n*
a trick designed to make money dishonestly/illegally
- an accomplice** *n*
someone who helps another person commit a crime
- a bill** *n*
a piece of paper informing you how much you must pay
- per head** *exp*
for each person
- to pretend** *vb*
to act as if something is true even though it isn't
- an undercover police officer** *n*
a police officer who wears ordinary clothes for work on a secret operation
- fake** *adj*
not real; a copy
- a badge** *n*
a small piece of metal that shows that you belong to a particular organisation
- a wallet** *n*
an object men use to carry money, credit cards, etc
- counterfeit notes** *n*
paper money that is not real but that appears to be real
- to cold call** *exp*
to telephone a person from a list of unknown people in order to sell them something
- a top-of-the-range car** *n*
the most exclusive car in a series of cars of the same make
- to spread** *vb*
to put a substance all over a surface so there is a thin layer
- to put down** *phr vb*
to kill humanely and in a controlled manner (in reference to an animal)
- a brick** *n*
a rectangular piece of baked clay used for building houses

PHRASAL VERB THEMES: DRIVING

GLOSSARY

- a garage** *n*
a place where your car can be repaired or fixed
- a seat belt** *n*
a strap that is fastened across your body for protection and safety in a seat
- a tyre** *n*
a thick piece of rubber that is fitted onto the wheels of a car
- a valve** *n*
a device that controls the flow of air

This month we are looking at some more phrasal verbs related to driving.

RUN OUT OF PETROL

TO HAVE NO MORE PETROL IN THE PETROL TANK.



WRITE OFF A CAR

TO COMPLETELY DESTROY A CAR SO THAT IT CANNOT BE USED ANY LONGER.



DROP SOMEONE OFF

TO LET SOMEONE GET OUT OF A CAR.



SET OFF ON A JOURNEY

TO START A JOURNEY.



TURN OFF

TO LEAVE A MOTORWAY OR ROAD AS YOU ARE DRIVING.



DO UP A SEAT BELT

TO FASTEN A SEAT BELT SO IT IS FIXED AROUND YOUR BODY.



CAUGHT UP IN TRAFFIC

TO BE TRAPPED ON A ROAD WITH LOTS OF CARS WHICH ARE MOVING VERY SLOWLY.



LET DOWN TYRES

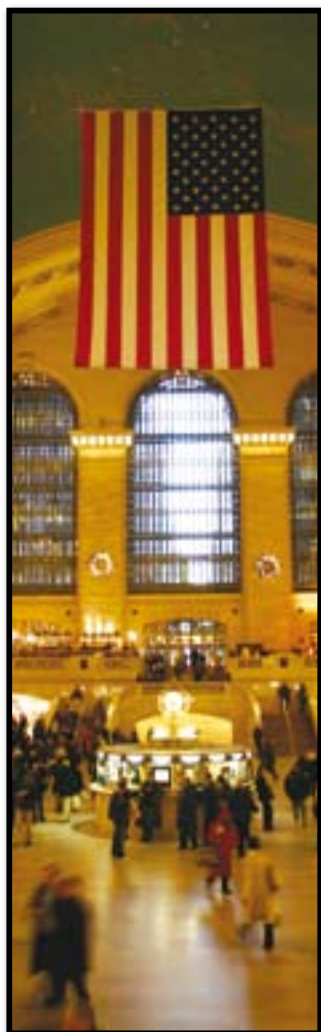
TO OPEN A TYRE VALVE AND TO LET THE AIR COME OUT OF THE TYRE.



Headline news

Workaholics

A new study claims that US workers are spending too much time at work. Employees across the US have far fewer holiday days than their **European equivalents** and the **survey** suggests that this could have a negative impact on their quality of life. The report said that US culture should change and suggested that Americans "take more time to relax, **kick back** and de-stress". Currently, people in the US work, on average, twenty days a year more than Europeans.



Internet Addiction

Some children in China are being treated for addiction to the internet. Children in Beijing can now attend a clinic for periods of two weeks or one month. The internet has arrived with force in China and many young males are becoming severely **hooked**, usually in internet chat rooms or on on-line games. One teenager Wang Yiming said "I used to **go without food** and sleep; I just couldn't leave it alone".



Back Pain

The potential for yoga to be used to treat lower back pain is being investigated by **researchers**. Millions of people suffer from chronic back pain, and existing treatments have only a limited effect. A team of academics, yoga teachers and practitioners have joined forces to find out if a 12-week course of yoga can **make a difference**. Recent, small studies in the US have shown that yoga can be helpful for back pain sufferers.



Elvis Bottle

It once belonged to Elvis Presley. And now it's been sold for \$28,800. A **prescription drug** bottle, which had previously contained the antihistamine drug Naldecon, was sold at a **US auction**. "We'd planned to sell the bottle with the pills, but the Los Angeles Police Department told us it would be a federal crime to do it, so, sad to say, we had to **remove** the pills," a spokesperson for the auction house said. Other items were also sold at the auction, including Alfred Hitchcock's passport, which sold for \$19,200. ☺



GLOSSARY

- a European equivalent** *n*
someone in Europe who is in the same situation
- a survey** *n*
if you carry out a "survey", you ask people questions in order to get their opinions on something
- to kick back** *phr vb* *inform*
to relax
- to be hooked on something** *exp*
to be addicted to something
- to go without food** *exp*
to live with no food
- a researcher** *n*
an investigator
- to make a difference** *exp*
to have an effect on something
- a prescription drug** *n*
a drug that the doctor gives you permission to take
- an auction** *n*
a public sale
- to remove** *vb*
to take away

THE WHITECHAPEL TROUSER SNATCHER

A radio play by Mark Pierro and Ian Coufts.



Hot English is proud to present the Whitechapel Trousers **Snatcher** – a six-part Victorian murder mystery.

In last week's episode our heroes Inspector Nottingham Forest and Hamilton the Academical went to the forensic laboratory to find further evidence as to the identity of the Trousers Snatcher's victim. While they were doing this they were **molested** several times by a confused, **womanising professor**. In this episode, our heroes visit the wife of the **deceased** and get womanised by a confusing doctor. Where do they get these **dreadful scripts** from?

Scripts & sound files

For the full script of this episode (and any previous episodes) and the sound file (an MP3), please download the files from the homepage of our website:

www.hotenglishmagazine.com ☛



GLOSSARY

to molest *vb*
to do things of a sexual nature to someone against their will
womanising *adj*
a man who has relationships with many different women
a professor *n*
a senior teacher in a university
the deceased *n*
the person who has died
dreadful *adj*
terrible; very bad
a script *n*
the text for a film or play



Survival Techniques

Here are some techniques for surviving in the office.

- Never walk down the hall without a document in your hands. People with documents in their hands look like hardworking employees **heading for** important meetings. 
- Use computers to look busy. Any time you use a computer, it looks like work to the casual observer. In reality, you can send and receive personal e-mail, calculate your finances and generally **have a blast** without doing anything remotely related to work.
- Top management can **get away with** a clean desk. For the rest of us, it looks like we're not working hard enough. Build huge **piles** of documents around your workspace and give your desk that special, busy, **messy** look. 
- Never **have anything to hand**. If you know somebody is coming to your office to pick something up, **bury** the document under a pile of papers and spend time looking for it.

- Never answer your phone if you have **voicemail**. People don't call you just because they want to give you something – they call because they want YOU to do something for THEM. **Screen all your calls** through voicemail.
- If somebody leaves a voicemail message for you and it sounds like **impending work**, respond during the lunch hour and leave your own message, "Hi, I got your message, just calling you back." That way, you **put the ball back in their court**, and you give the impression of a hardworking and conscientious employee. If you are lucky, they'll soon give up or look for a solution that doesn't involve you. ☛

GLOSSARY

to head for *phr vb*
to go to
to have a blast *exp inform*
to have a really good time
to get away with something *exp*
to do something illegal and to escape the negative consequences
a pile *n*
if there is a "pile" of papers, there are many papers with one on top of the other
messy *adj*
with things on the floor and not ordered
to have something to hand *exp*
to have something close to you so you can use it
to bury *vb*
to put in a hole in the ground; to hide something
voicemail *n*
a machine in your phone that records oral messages
to screen calls *exp*
to check who is telephoning you before answering the call
impending work *n*
work that must be done
to put the ball back in someone's court *exp*
if the "ball is in someone's court", that person must do something before things can progress; to give the responsibility of deciding what to do back to someone

Shaken & Stirred

The incredible story of the 1970's Martini girl.

She was a glamorous model. She mixed with the **smart set**. And she led a Bohemian lifestyle. She was the model who represented the **chic** drink of the 1970s, Martini. But her life **took a turn for the worse**, and just recently she died a poor, elderly woman in Liverpool. What happened?

Martini ads

These days, George Clooney is the ambassador for the most stylish drink in the world: Martini. In the Martini ads, he plays the part of the guy who won't **give up** his bottles of Martini for anything in the world, not even a **stunningly attractive** woman. But back in the 1970s, it was a beautiful model who represented the drink with the **suggestive** catch-phrase "any time, any place, any where". She appeared on a photo next to a pool, and helped to **treble sales** of the drink (assisted, of course, by that other famous Martini drinker: James Bond). So, who was the Martini girl?

Without trace

The model in question was Erica Wills, a 22-year-old former air-hostess. Wills was born in 1949. She was christened Deborah, and was the daughter of Jayne, an **underwear** model, and John, a professional soldier. After an education at St Anne's College for Young Ladies, she trained as stewardess for British Airways. On her **debut flight** as a senior stewardess in first class, she was asked to investigate a young couple who appeared to be making love under an airline **blanket**. The couple in question **turned out to be**

none other than John Lennon and Yoko Ono. The flight was eventually diverted to Rome. Later on, Wills developed an addiction to Valium which **led to claustrophobia**, and which, in turn, forced her to retire from flying. She started modelling after she was "spotted" in a lift in a shop in Edinburgh by Jean Shrimpton (a top model of the day). As a result of becoming the world-famous Martini model, Wills moved in glamorous circles, including holidaying with Tom Jones and lunching with footballer George Best. But in 1972, a year after the famous Martini photo was taken, she suddenly **disappeared without trace**. Where had she gone?

Drugs and dances

Actually, Wills had emigrated to Beirut. And she soon found herself in trouble. She had originally gone to help a friend. However, after a night in a bar, Wills woke up to discover that her passport had been stolen, and that she'd signed a contract forcing her to work as a dancer at the bar, which was a kind of **upmarket brothel**. Several months later, she met Elie Ayache, a Lebanese playboy and son of one of the country's wealthiest and most politically-connected families (they owned the Ferrari

franchise for the Middle East). Ayache fell in love with Wills on the spot, and negotiated to "buy" her for \$5,000. They married in 1975, and remained together for fifteen years. Later on, Wills worked with another model on a **risqué** dance act, which they took to audiences across the Middle East. She also gave birth to two daughters. When the Lebanese civil war broke out, they were living in Muslim West Beirut. During the war, they were forced to live in a basement for six months, with little food, water or electricity.

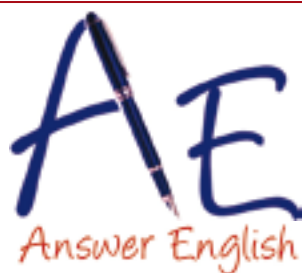
Escape

Later that year, Wills and her daughters escaped Lebanon on a **hydrofoil** driven by Dutch mercenaries. They went to live near Wills' mother in St Andrews, Scotland, leaving Ayache behind; they were later divorced, and he died in 2004. In Scotland, Wills met and married a local **publican** called Robert Alexander. They **split** just over a decade later after Wills met Neil Jackson, a professor of architecture. Deborah Jackson, as she became, spent the rest of her life in York and Liverpool. On 18th May, she died following a **stroke**, aged 57. And so ended the remarkable life of the original Martini Girl. ☺



GLOSSARY

the smart set *n*
the fashionable, famous people
chic *adj*
fashionable
to take a turn for the worse *exp*
to become even worse
to give up *phr vb*
to stop doing something
stunningly attractive *exp*
very, very attractive/beautiful
suggestive *adj*
that causes you to think about sex
to treble sales *exp*
to sell three times more than before
underwear *n*
clothing you wear under your trousers, skirt, etc
a debut flight *n*
the first time you fly in a plane
a blanket *n*
a large piece of material (often made of wool) used to keep you warm
to turn out to be *exp*
to be something eventually
to lead to *phr vb*
if A leads to B, A causes B
claustrophobia *n*
feelings of anxiety and stress when you are in a closed space
to disappear without trace *exp*
if someone does this, they disappear and no one knows what has happened to them
upmarket *adj*
expensive and of a good quality
a brothel *n*
a house where prostitutes work
risqué *adj*
a bit rude because it refers to sex
a hydrofoil *n*
a boat which can travel on the surface of the water
a publican *n*
a person who manages a pub
to split *vb*
to separate
a stroke *n*
if someone has a "stroke", a blood vessel in their brain bursts (explodes) or gets blocked and they may die or become paralysed



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The increasing number of icebergs that are **breaking off** from Antarctica and **drifting** away into the ocean have become interesting new habitats a recent report has said. A group of American scientists say these icebergs **hold** important nutrients which slowly drift into the sea and attract a large number of different species of fish and seabirds. These micro habitats can exist for up to two miles in any direction

around a large iceberg the report has said. The researchers studied 1,000 different icebergs across 4,300 square miles of the southern oceans as they were performing their **research**. They found that many rare species of seabird were also using the icebergs as "mobile homes" and that they were a good base from which to **hunt** the large number of fish. A further interesting part of the study says that the increased

levels of phytoplankton, which also live around the icebergs, increase the absorption of CO2 gasses in the environment, **meaning** that the icebergs could have a positive effect on the problems caused by global warming. One of the lead researchers, Ken Smith, said, "This is a new and very interesting area for scientists to study." These icebergs are said to increase the productivity of an ecological area by up to 40%. ☺



Floating Ecosystems

Icebergs create new ecological areas.

Religious Conversion

Tony Blair set to meet the pope.

The ex-Prime Minister of Britain, Tony Blair, visited the pope to complete his conversion to Roman Catholicism. This news has come from a **source close to** the politician who has said that Blair "regards this as a very important part of his life". Tony Blair's wife Cherie and their four children are all **practising Roman Catholics**, but Blair himself has never been an official member of the church. There has never been a Catholic prime minister and it is clear that Blair has waited until the end of his **period of office** to make the official

conversion. He has, however, been **taking mass** in many different Roman Catholic churches for many years. Father Michael Steed, the official **chaplain** for members of the British Houses of Parliament has apparently become very close to Blair during the last few years, and was a regular visitor to Blair's official residence in Downing Street. It is still normal for members of the British aristocracy to be members of the Roman Catholic Church. However, all kings and queens of England are required to be members of the Church of England. ☺



I HOPE YOU AREN'T AFTER MY JOB.

GLOSSARY

to break off *phr vb*

to separate

to drift *vb*

when something "drifts", it is carried by the wind or water

to hold *vb*

to contain

research *n*

investigation

to hunt *vb*

to look for something in order to catch or kill it

to mean *vb*

if A "means" B, then A leads to B or causes B

a source *n*

a person who has information

close to someone *exp*

good friends with someone or in regular contact with them

a practising Roman Catholic *exp*

a person who performs the rites and rituals associated with Catholicism

a period of office *n*

the time that a person is president, manager, etc

a conversion *n*

a change from one religion to another

to take mass *phr vb*

to accept the bread and blood (wine) of Christ

a chaplain *n*

a member of the Christian clergy who works in a hospital, school, prison or in the army

New Words

The latest words to describe current trends and tendencies.

Ever felt the **urge** to invent a new word? With all the rapid changes taking place in society, new words are **cropping up** all the time. Just recently, Collins, one of the world's biggest dictionary publishers, launched a website called the Collins Word Exchange. Anyone from around the world can send in their suggestions for new words. Here are some of them, along with a few of our own. This is the first of a new series. More next month.



Tween
this word was recently coined in the US. It refers to a child between the ages of eight and thirteen.

Sam, Minnesota.



Flexitarian
somebody like a vegetarian who sometimes eats meat for a reason (i.e. it's Thanksgiving Day). Or a non-smoker who has a cigarette after a meal sometimes.

Bob, Texas.



Drunch
a meal that you eat combining lunch and dinner. Similar to "brunch" (which is a combination of breakfast and lunch).

Greg, New York City.



Funner
everybody uses it, but it still hasn't become a real word. Can they just make "funner" a word? Well, they should.

Sally, Wisconsin.



Blunkettism
blaming the world for one's own self-imposed problems.

This word comes from the name of the former government minister **David Blunkett**.

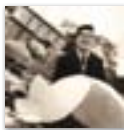
Paula, England.



Whoa
I would add this word, which is an expression of

bewilderment.

Steve, Canada.



Gay
give us back the word "gay" in its original meaning and not in reference to a sexual preference.

Margery, Poland.



Widget
I'm a fan of using the word "widget" to describe the USB memory keys/sticks that have

stealthily become completely

indispensable.

Alyson, Paris.

Misunderestimate
I believe there are many words that need to be added to

the dictionary that President Bush has made up, including "misunderestimate".

Mary, Boston.



Uncoldable
my young son came up with a new word to

describe why he didn't need to wear a coat to school: he explained that he was "uncoldable" (i.e. he couldn't get cold).

Mark, Dubai.



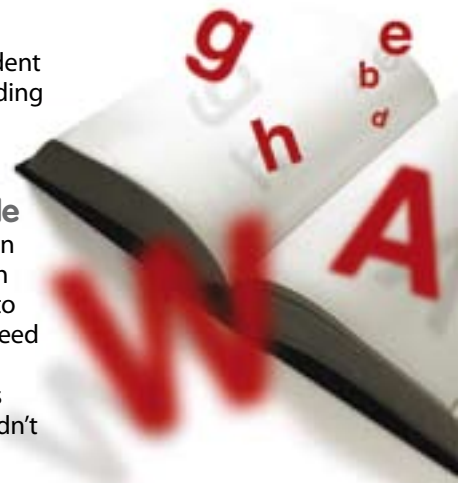
Guesstimate
the combination of "to guess" and "to estimate". Wonderful.

Steve, Canada.



Smirting
as you know, many countries have banned smoking in pubs. As a result, those who can't resist the urge to light up are obliged to stand outside. This has led to a new phenomenon known as "smirting", which is basically a combination of "smoking" and "flirting". Many do it, so it should be in the dictionary.

Rory, Dublin. ☺



GLOSSARY

an urge to do something *exp*

a strong desire to do something

to crop up *phr vb*

to appear suddenly and unexpectedly

funner *n inform*

more fun. Remember, this isn't an accepted English term

David Blunkett *n*

a blind government minister who was forced to resign because of a number of scandals

bewilderment *n*

a feeling of confusion

gay *adj*

homosexual; originally, it meant happy

stealthily *adj*

secretly and steadily

indispensable *adj*

something that is "indispensable" is difficult to live without

to make up *phr vb*

to invent

misunderestimate *vb inform*

a word that has been invented by George Bush that is a mixture of "misunderstand" and "underestimate"

to flirt *vb*

to act in a way that shows you are sexually attracted to someone

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